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United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In 2003, the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council took up the theme "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development". The ministerial declaration adopted by the Council at its high-level segment highlighted the importance of alliances among stakeholders to achieve the aims of rural development. Council resolutions 2004/49 and 2005/42 on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development built upon this ministerial declaration as an innovative ad hoc initiative of the Council, with Madagascar and the Dominican Republic as pilot countries for the Alliance.

The present report responds to Council resolution 2005/42 requesting the Secretary-General to report to it at its 2007 substantive session on the work of the United Nations Alliance in the two pilot countries, covering work by national institutions and various development partners, donor developed and developing countries, United Nations system organizations, non-governmental/civil society organizations and the private sector. The report also presents policy recommendations to enhance the capacity of the national mechanisms in the pilot countries to fast-track partnership projects for rural development.

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I. Introduction

A. Background

1. The present report is the first to be submitted in compliance with a request made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2005/42 on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,[1] requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its 2007 substantive session on the work of the Alliance.

2. By its resolutions 2004/49 and 2005/42, the Council approved Madagascar and the Dominican Republic as the first and second pilot countries of the Alliance. In its resolutions, the Council invited Member States, the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society, the private sector and other relevant shareholders to support the programmes and activities of the Alliance in its mission to promote sustainable rural development, consistent with General Assembly resolution 58/129 and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Council. The Council stated that activities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system at the country level in support of the Alliance should take into account the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In its resolution 60/215 entitled "Towards global partnerships", the Assembly likewise made specific reference to the Alliance.

3. This initiative for promoting rural development is derived from the high-level segment of the Council in 2003, which took up the theme "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development". Building upon a key recommendation in the related document entitled "World economic situation and prospects" (E/2005/51), the Council in its ministerial declaration[2] highlighted the importance of alliances among all stakeholders to achieve the aims of rural development.

4. The Alliance responds to that mandate, and is in line with the recognition that reducing rural poverty is a key factor to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries, and particularly low-income countries, due to their heavy dependence on agriculture and the fact that most of their populations reside in rural areas.

5. The Council's objective in the Alliance initiative is to bring together different stakeholders, in order to accomplish together more than can be done separately. The mission of the Alliance is to (a) work as a catalyst and facilitator for the creation of partnerships; (b) to provide a platform for collaboration; and (c) to bring the results of these efforts to the attention of the international community through the Council.

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[1] The United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development is the third in a series of innovations by the Economic and Social Council in recent years to promote participation by a wider range of stakeholders, following the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force (2000) and the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African countries emerging from conflict (2002).

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 35.

B. Importance of rural development in the pilot countries

6. Rural development plays a key role in the development process in Madagascar, as the vast majority of its population lives in rural areas. Agriculture accounts for 30 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) and employs 80 per cent of Malagasy families. Yet, despite the country's exceptional richness in natural resources and its high potential for agricultural production, more than 70 per cent of the population lives in poverty, 85 per cent of which in rural areas. Thus, the eradication of poverty from rural areas is critical to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals.

7. Rural development is just as important for the Dominican Republic, as a majority of the Dominicans who live below the poverty line reside in rural areas. Additionally, most rural Dominicans suffer from poor social services and limited employment opportunities. A series of factors, including inadequate rural infrastructure, vulnerability to changes in the international price for agricultural commodities and the incidence of natural disasters (such as hurricanes) jeopardize agricultural production, thereby hindering consistent rural economic performance. The difficulties experienced by rural areas as they try to develop led to the selection of the Dominican Republic as the second pilot country, in the hope that the initiative could help reduce rural poverty.

C. Promotion of partnerships for rural development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

8. The concept of public-private partnerships is based on the recognition that development partners can benefit from these alliances by pooling their technical, financial and technological resources to support sustainable rural development.

9. The acceleration of rural development through partnerships could facilitate the process to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, there is a need to mobilize partnerships for Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, particularly with development partners operating at the country level. Such partnerships would help to reinforce policies and programmes that address a broad range of issues related to rural development. Attaining the Millennium Development Goals will not be possible without a significant increase in rural incomes.

10. At the country level, the United Nations system should fully reflect the interests of the rural poor in the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, as well as in poverty reduction strategy papers, by promoting direct participation of the relevant rural organizations and directly articulating key rural development concerns. Non-governmental and civil society organizations, foundations and academia play an active role in promoting partnerships. The participation of the private sector in public-private partnerships provides great potential for the promotion of sustainable rural development.

D. Structure of the report

11. The present report examines the work of the Alliance, accomplishments and continuing challenges and constraints in promoting partnerships for rural development. The first section explains the priority given by the Governments of Madagascar and Dominican Republic to rural development. Section two discusses the establishment of national mechanisms in these two countries and the progress achieved in promoting partnerships with various stakeholders. Section three outlines the importance of strengthening the capacities of Alliance Madagascar and the Presidential Commission and global advocacy to perform as an effective platform for fast-track partnerships. The concluding section raises some critical issues and also suggests measures to improve the work of the Alliance.

12. The preparation of the present report benefited from inputs from the stakeholders[3] of the two pilot countries. The report also contains information on the supportive activities provided by non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sector in both Madagascar and the Dominican Republic.

II. Work of the Alliance

A. Alliance Madagascar

13. The country-level mechanism of the Alliance, Alliance Madagascar, was established in 2004 by a government decree to promote partnerships in rural development. The Prime Minister of Madagascar chairs meetings of high-level participants from the four stakeholder groups, namely, the Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and financial/technical communities. Two members of the United Nations country team participate in these meetings: the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The work of the Alliance falls well within the priorities already enunciated in the country's vision to stimulate economic activity and overcome poverty as set out in the recently launched Madagascar Action Plan, in which rural development receives top priority.

14. A management team of stakeholders, with supporting staff, was put in place in Alliance Madagascar to assure regular collaboration in the implementation of the annual workplan. The management team is composed of six officials, including two managers who produce monthly reports, which are submitted to the management team. The representatives of Alliance Madagascar have held meetings with UNDP in Antananarivo and in New York concerning the need for the provision of technical

[3] Inputs for the present report came from the Government of Madagascar, the Dominican Republic, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations , the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, UNCDF, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Trade Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the International Maritime Organization.

and financial support for the Alliance. Alliance Madagascar carried out several communication activities to increase public awareness and to promote opportunities presented by the initiative in the country.

1. Promotion of partnerships: accomplishments

15. The present section provides examples of partnership projects that have been initiated to promote rural development in Madagascar since July 2004.

16. FAO has been an active supporter of the Alliance since its creation. It provided technical assistance for the establishment of Centres de services agricoles in six pilot areas in the country, bringing together farmers' associations at the district level with private sector organizations, providing rural credit and agricultural tools as well as facilitating transport and marketing. It has also provided technical assistance to local government agencies and non-governmental organizations. With financing by the European Union and technical assistance provided by FAO and other partners over a period of three years, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries will establish centres in all 103 districts. The initiative is parallel and complementary to the Millennium Challenge Account of the United States of America and the United States Agency for International Development Business and Market Expansion Programme banks initiatives in the establishment of agriculture business centres (the Millennium Challenge Account in five regions, the Business and Market Expansion Programme in another four regions) with similar objectives to promote business opportunities in the agricultural sectors of the country.

17. FAO has been active in the development of export opportunities in the region, particularly in the neighbouring island of Réunion. In collaboration with the Fédération Réunionnaise des cooperatives agricoles, a French programme of farmers' cooperatives, it assisted Malagasy producer groups in introducing better production methods with an assured export market to Réunion. Another major initiative of FAO was the introduction of cross-border projects in promoting investment and cooperation opportunities between Madagascar and Mauritius. FAO facilitated business meetings between Mauritian and Malagasy operators in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Private Sector Development, the Millennium Challenge Account and the Business and Market Expansion Programme and technical exchange missions between the two countries. The exchange visit was useful also in identifying constraints to business development in Madagascar: access to credit, land, customs regulations, phytosanitary restrictions, logistics and storage and processing facilities.

18. FAO has also provided technical support for agroprocessing techniques through the provision of a consultant to the Government of Madagascar. The Government of India will finance the installation of an agro-techno pole[4] in the Vakinankaratra Region and Tamatave Province. In 2006, FAO assisted Madagascar in a range of activities to support agribusiness initiatives. Public-private partnerships have been promoted in particular through the establishment of specific platforms (for example, the Rice Observatory Platform) aimed at bringing together farmers' associations, trade associations and the public sector. FAO has been involved in the establishment of platforms for rice, fertilizers, lychees, onions and potatoes.

[4] See www.tana-cciaa.org.

19. Another Rome-based food agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has also actively supported the Alliance in promoting public-private partnerships in rural areas. In order to address the complex nature of rural poverty reduction, IFAD has worked with a diverse group of public and private partners, including governments, United Nations system organizations, non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sector, to develop and implement projects and programmes designed to increase agricultural productivity, food security and the incomes of poor, vulnerable and marginalized people in rural areas.

20. IFAD has invested in rural and agricultural development projects in Madagascar that have benefited many people in its rural areas. Currently, it supports three ongoing projects for a total of $42 million that are designed to strengthen farmers' organizations, improve poor people's access to rural credit and markets and to help increase agricultural production. The first is a project to enhance development in the Menabe and Melaky regions, which supports the Government of Madagascar in its reform of land-use rights and titling system on its West Coast. The second, the Rural Income Promotion Programme, is designed to improve market access for small-scale producers through the value-chain approach, adds value to their products by supporting a fair contracting between farmers, processors, traders and exporters on the east coast. The third is the Upper Mandrare basin development project to raise farm and off-farm incomes for rural populations in the project area (southern dry land of Madagascar), to improve the living conditions of the rural poor and reinforce food security.

21. In December 2006, the Executive Board of IFAD approved the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme for Madagascar, which identifies IFAD strategies and priorities in Madagascar over the period 2007-2012. The Programme was prepared in close consultation with the Government and development stakeholders and is based on national poverty reduction and development strategies, in particular the Madagascar Action Plan. The strategic objectives of the IFAD operational strategy in Madagascar include considerable private sector involvement in line with the Government's stated goal of promoting rural economic growth.

22. The World Food Programme (WFP) has also actively provided support for developing partnerships through Alliance Madagascar, and has developed, in line with the objectives of the Alliance, a public-private partnership in Madagascar to support rural development. A private company, Semis Direct de Madagascar, in collaboration with the non-governmental organization Tany sy Fampandrosoana, introduced in 2004 an improved variety of rice seeds in the south-east of the country, which is chronically affected by food insecurity. In July 2005, the consortium signed with WFP a convention to drain 400 hectares of marshlands for an improved agricultural production project with local communities to address the problem of structural food insecurity affecting the most vulnerable and the poorest local communities in the zones of Manakara in the Vatovavy-Fitovinany Region and Vohipeno and Farafangana in the south-east of the country. Within that collaboration, Semis Direct provided improved seeds and financial support to farmers to encourage them to adopt better agricultural and environmental techniques for production. WFP has also contributed food to address the needs of communities during the first year of agricultural activities prior to harvest.

23. A team representing UNDP Africa and the Millennium Project visited Madagascar in June 2006 to help the Government prepare a needs assessment and costing for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The assessment was used in the preparation of the Madagascar Action Plan, which is the Government's five-year development plan designed to fully integrate the Goals.

24. The UNDP Growing Sustainable Business initiative in Madagascar has actively facilitated innovative and pro-poor business ventures in various sectors. Activities undertaken include promoting ecotourism, encouraging the use of solar power, strengthening small- and medium-sized enterprises in the hydrocarbon sector, supporting the industrial wind energy centre, promoting energy diversification and the adoption of artemisinin-based therapies against malaria.

25. A study was conducted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund on the microfinance sector and its relationship with the financial sector. It was validated by the stakeholders, the Government, the Central Bank, the microfinance institutions and their associations, the commercial banks and donors. The stakeholders engaged in a participatory process to develop a national microfinance strategy, which was approved at a national workshop in March 2004 and endorsed by the Government in June 2004. A steering committee comprising representatives from the Government, the donors, the microfinance institutions and their associations and the bankers association, oversee the implementation of the strategy and provide guidance on the implementation of the plan of action. A coordination unit within the Ministry of Finance is in charge of the day-to-day implementation of the plan of action.

26. The overall objective of the Madagascar programme of the Fund is to increase sustainable access of financial services to low-income households through support for the implementation of the strategy, leading to a sustainable supply of diversified, suitable and increased financial services, mainly in the areas not covered by microfinance institutions. Programme support includes the organization of an institutional framework that will ensure a well-structured sector and efficient coordination and implementation of the strategy. The implementation of the programme will have a positive impact on access to financial services in rural areas.

27. Alliance Madagascar has been instrumental in bringing about support from Land O'Lakes, Inc. to the Ministry of Agriculture to enable it to draft a master plan for rural development. The plan, which began in April 2004, aims at providing an overarching perspective and action strategy for other efforts and plans already devised and under way. The new approach of the plan maximizes the market-oriented business focus, critical for the rapid and sustainable advancement of rural development.

28. FAO, in collaboration with the Comité d'appui pour la relance des enterprises, a Malagasy support committee that establishes companies and brings new initiatives to the principal business-oriented groups of stakeholders, provided financing and related support to the managers of Alliance Madagascar from March to October 2004. In January 2005, IFAD also decided to support the committee. The close collaboration established between the sector of the Alliance related to agriculture and FAO was primarily concerned with the elaboration of bankable projects. Five projects introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Alliance were identified as bankable projects focusing on the promotion of income generation through small-scale agribusiness.

29. Non-governmental and civil society organizations also contributed to programmes for rural development. A successful partnership was established between the New York-based Non-Profit Computing, Inc. with the Rotary Clubs of New York and the province of Antananarivo. The partnership has achieved important results, such as the creation of Madagascar's first information and communications technology village in Sambaina. Non-Profit Computing, Inc. donated 483 pre-owned working computers to the province of Antananarivo in 2005. The objective of the partnership was to provide technical assistance to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban local authorities and schools. The Alliance helped establish a partnership between the province and the Rotary Club of Anatanarivo to provide technical assistance to users of the newly-acquired computers. The project helped to improve the village administration and schools in the province.

30. The next phase to transform Sambaina into a model information and communications technology village attracted additional partners, such as the University of Oklahoma (United States of America) and the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication in the Mediterranean and in the World (Italy), which works closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Other stakeholders in the project include several universities (Politecnico di Milano, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Stony Brook University), private companies (Microsoft, Siemens, Telespazio, Pianeta, Water B2B), civil society organizations and the Government of Madagascar.

31. The project is aimed at fighting poverty at the community level through the use of new information and communications technology for achieving alternative clean energy and water and community renewal. The initiative was presented at the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005. The process of implementation and replication of the project was then started in the village of Sambaina, with four main services: (a) e-learning, through digital classrooms overseen by universities with extensive experience in that area; (b) "telemedicine" in the local health-care facilities, providing services for pregnant women and newborn children, and which could eventually provide minor surgery through a network of local and international hospitals and research centres; (c) e-governance facilities housed local government offices, in which the local community can learn to use information and communications technology programmes such as the Internet, e-mail and word processing software, and have access to basic services, such as the distribution of identification cards, permits and official documents; and (d) Internet-based consulting for improving agricultural production. The aim of the project is to generate new business enterprises and economic activities in the villages.

32. In 2006, Alliance Madagascar and the Observatory entered into a partnership with the Italian satellite provider Eutelsat Communications, which offered to donate a year of free satellite Internet service to the village, which is expected to allow the project to expand its reach and to start programmes requiring Internet connections, such as e-commerce and e-learning.

33. In June 2006, Alliance Madagascar invited the Director of the Millennium Project and the President of the Observatory to establish projects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. At a meeting with the Government of Madagascar, the village of Sambaina was designated as Madagascar's first African Millennium

Village project. Its promoters, the Millennium Project and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, will support the project in collaboration with UNDP, which will take a bottom-up approach to lift villages out of poverty. The plan is to provide early results to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and environmental degradation, by 2015. The Government of the Republic of Korea has committed financial support for the implementation of the Millennium Village in Madagascar.

34. A representative of Alliance Madagascar participated in a training programme in fish farming organized by the Infopoverty Institute and the Public Service Institute of the University of Oklahoma, in Rosaryville, Louisiana, from 15 to 19 May 2006. The training workshop focused on introducing fish farming as a sustainable development enterprise in low-income countries. The representative also attended a follow-up training programme, which was held in New York on 9 August 2006. An official from FAO made a well-documented presentation demonstrating the critical need for aquaculture to complement capture fishing to supplement diets in low-income communities in the coming years.

35. Alliance Madagascar also established a partnership between the World Wildlife Fund and the Mayor's Office of Sambaina for a project aimed at increasing the production of honey and fruit and the establishment of bee-keeping facilities. The project has generated new income while contributing to the production of the environment.

36. Alliance Madagascar established a partnership with Columbia University in 2005 with the aim of conducting lead studies on rural microfinance, the export of man-made products and the potential socio-economic and environmental impact of mining exploration by the mining company MineCore.

37. The Africa Bureau of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development/UNDP is planning a two-pronged approach to the promotion of business opportunities between Madagascar and Asian countries to help set up a web-based Africa-Asia exchange desk, and to facilitate participation by entrepreneurs from Madagascar in the Africa-Asia Business Forum series.

38. For the biennium 2008-2009, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has made plans to prepare a series of papers on public-private partnerships in agro-industry and agribusiness. The Commission also plans to organize a high-level meeting on public-private partnerships in agro-industry and agribusiness.

2. Impact and challenges

39. Some examples of the impact of the public-private partnerships for rural development are described below.

40. The partnership comprising the Malagasy Ministry of Agriculture, WFP, IFAD, Semi Direct de Madagascar and Tany sy Fampandrosoana has had a positive impact in the south-east of the country, an area that has been adversely affected by food insecurity. As a result of a project to improve the quality of rice seeds, farmers produced a total of 1,100 tons of paddy rice and 250 tons of niebé (a local type of pulse). Rice production has increased from 0.8 to 1 ton per hectare of rice field cultivated by traditional methods to 2.75 tons with the improved ones. The efforts of the partnership have proved beneficial, as it has brought together humanitarian aid

agencies and the private sector to improve the daily livelihood of the very poor and the most vulnerable living in remote areas of the countryside.

41. The action plan of the National Microfinance Strategy and its alignment with the Madagascar Action Plan has provided an effective framework for mobilizing and efficiently using more resources to increase access to financial services in rural areas. The Strategy included a clear plan of action with a budget. The United Nations Capital Development Fund and UNDP are partners in supporting the Microfinance Strategy through funding and implementation of a regional programme entitled "Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development". This home-grown, nationally owned programme, which has a high-level commitment from the Government, drives the process of constructing an inclusive financial sector in Madagascar. The programme results expected by 2009 are as follows: 592,000 savers (one saver per household) with savings equivalent to $22 million; 295,500 borrowers (one per household) with loans equivalent to $56.8 million, representing 50 per cent of the projected demand.

42. The five-year master plan for rural development drafted with Land O'Lakes, Inc. is expected to achieve two significant results: (a) to move 700,000 rural households (3.5 million people) out of poverty and into a more food-secure environment; and (b) to engage 350,000 households (1.75 million people) in more formal, market-based food systems, thereby doubling their household revenue. The master plan is to be funded by the World Bank Rural Development Support Project.

43. The joint Information and Communication Technology project involving the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication in the Mediterranean and in the World, Non-Profit Computing, Inc. and Rotary International has had the following results: (a) digital classrooms: currently more than 600 students aged 11 to 15 are regularly trained in order to accelerate the digital literacy of the community and create new jobs. The project has also been extended to the neighbouring community of Ankadimanga; (b) a new community resource accessible to all: in 2005, the Sambaina community built a cyber-room in the town hall to help members of the community get acquainted with the computer world. The initiative was undertaken jointly by the Sambaina Town Council, the Commune and the Decentralization Department, and supported by the Ministries of Education, Health and Telecommunications. Students, farmers, job seekers and virtually all members of the community can now learn basic computer skills in classes with six personal computers at their disposal eight hours per day at a cost of approximately $2.50 per month. The centre not only helps the citizens to fight poverty but also encourages them to stay in the village and to broaden their perspectives. The local administration now works faster, thanks to the use of computers and simpler data searches and processing; (c) day hospitals: computer facilities have been provided to improve the infrastructure of the Sambaina and Ankadimanga basic health-care centres. In addition, the day hospital has been equipped to care for pregnant women and newborn children in those areas; (d) Telemedicine has been introduced to the local day hospital. Isolated areas can now have access to shared and remote medical expertise by means of telecommunications and information technology. A network of hospitals provides services that include diagnoses, prescriptions, and special services for pregnant women, the newborn and disabled persons. From an administrative point of view, hospital staff can create and manage demographic data, prepare reports or gather statistics, and transmit them to the Ministry of Health.

Computerization has helped the health-care centres to make savings by using much less paper and increasing productivity.

44. Alliance Madagascar reported that greater support from development partners would have given the national mechanism a higher profile when promoting more public-private partnerships projects in the country. Despite firm support from the Prime Minister of Madagascar, the Alliance ran into difficulties owing to limited capacities. The business team, which was assigned to lead the Alliance and to which FAO provided office space and logistics, has not been able to work efficiently in accordance with expectations because of financial constraints. The scarce financial resources resulted in occasional non-payment of salaries to managers, a fact which ultimately led to their departure. As there were no full-time managers for the Alliance following its creation, it had only a limited capacity to facilitate a larger number of partnerships. Despite these constraints, however, the partnerships that were established have yielded tangible results.

B. Presidential Commission (Dominican Republic)

45. The Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development, established in 2004 by the Government of the Dominican Republic, supports the work of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development through linkages with global and national development partners.

46. The Commission and some government ministries in the Dominican Republic promote the principles of public-private alliances to strengthen cooperation with United Nations system organizations and to expand partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental/civil society organizations, with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals targets. The work of the Ministry of Agriculture is closely related to the Alliance themes. The aim of the Commission's task force on hunger, the "Comer es Primero" programme, is to work for poverty reduction through the effective implementation of task force strategies and recommendations, including public-private partnerships for rural development. In keeping with the Government's goal of promoting awareness, assessment and attention to the Millennium Development Goals at the local level, and with the encouragement of the Millennium Project, the Commission has championed the identification of two low-income provinces, namely, El Seibo and Monte Plata. This has opened up opportunities to expand projects under the framework of the Alliance.

1. Promotion of partnerships: accomplishments

47. Examples of partnership projects promoted by the Commission and development partners for rural development since July 2005 are given below. The key strategy is to promote pro-poor business through partnerships with government, United Nations system organizations, non-governmental/civil society organizations and the private sector. Also, as a sizeable number of Dominicans live in the United States of America, efforts have been made by the Government of the Dominican Republic and development partners to promote partnerships with financial institutions and various Dominican associations in the United States to attract a larger flow of remittances and further expand foreign trade and foreign direct investments.

48. The Millennium Project has supported the Dominican Republic in the preparation of its first Millennium Development Goal needs assessment report entitled "Investing in sustainable development in the Dominican Republic". The results of the assessment and the costing were published in July 2005, and the subsequent national budget drew upon the priorities that it had identified. Needs were found in the areas of agriculture, education, gender equality, public health including HIV/AIDS, environment and infrastructure. Other specific areas identified by the Government were safe quality standards, sanitation, mining, textiles, tourism, small and medium enterprises, finance, information and communication technology and energy.

49. UNDP and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, in close collaboration with the Government of the Dominican Republic, organized a regional consultation on migration, remittances and development for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo from 27 to 29 July 2006. The main objectives of the consultation were to brainstorm on possibilities for creating remittance-based financial products and services that could help improve livelihoods in the recipient communities, strengthen the role of diaspora/hometown associations in the local development processes and explore mechanisms to make those processes efficient and participatory. The representatives of the Alliance were closely involved in the planning process of the consultation, as its objectives were in line with the aims of the Alliance.

50. The consultation provided a stimulating opportunity for a wide variety of stakeholders to evaluate the impact that migration and remittances were having on development in countries with significant levels of emigration. The outcome of the consultation included (a) a replication of the best practices and mechanisms in other countries/regions, including through South-South partnerships; (b) significant potential and demand to create remittance-based inclusive financial products through public-private partnerships; and (c) the creation of a knowledge-sharing network and community of practice to share knowledge and lessons for engaging diaspora/hometown associations in local development processes. The outcome of the consultation was forwarded to the President of the General Assembly as a document for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York.

51. The UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and the Government of the Dominican Republic organized a one-day private sector forum to explore linkages between remittances and development, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 8 September 2006. The forum brought together over 50 participants from companies dealing with remittances, microfinance, information and communications technology, together with regulators and parties that support projects, including investment funds, multilateral institutions, foundations and government agencies. One of the conclusions reached at the forum was that public-private partnerships could help ensure a smooth transition from informal to formal remittances, and that they also allowed greater access to remittance-based financial products that are inclusive and which address the needs of the poor and disadvantaged. Such partnerships can assist the private sector by (a) offsetting new product risks for the commercial sector, by levelling the playing field; (b) allowing greater access to unreached consumers; (c) introducing new technology; (d) improving the financial and technical education of consumers; and (e) bringing in private sector entrepreneurial skills to improve the

financial infrastructure, including the automation of money markets and the establishment of service and credit standards.

52. FAO has provided assistance to the Alliance through its Special Programme for Food Security in the Bahoruco Province, where it supported rural development associations through the activities of the national thematic group of the Network on Rural Development and Food Security, and by means of various projects, such as a project for the rehabilitation of yucca plantations undertaken with the National Federation of Women Farmers. It has also provided support for a project on nutritional education undertaken with the women's association Mujeres en Desarrollo.

53. Phase II of the IFAD South-Western Region Small Farmers Project is nearing completion. The project is directly executed by the national planning office, which formulates national policies for economic, social, territorial and institutional development. The policies include improved coordination with local governments in parallel with increased transfer of public resources to them. The project covers the three provinces in which the highest poverty levels in the country exist.

54. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has participated in matters related to the Alliance by fostering better analysis and indicators of rural development in the Dominican Republic. Another activity led by ECLAC was the preparation of a multi-agency report, involving FAO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the indicators of the 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. In that report, the Government and the private sector analysed the position and progress of the Dominican Republic in comparison with other Latin American and Caribbean countries in the area of 27 indicators ranging from poverty, income and rural development (agricultural and non-agricultural) to exports, land use, pesticide use, access to drinking water and schooling. A seminar and meetings were held in the Dominican Republic on tourism-based clusters, with the participation of several important stakeholders, such as large hotel chains, local tourist operators and the public sector. Several initiatives for private-private and private-public cooperation have ensued.

55. The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, in cooperation with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, co-organized a meeting on 12 September 2006 in New York to sensitize members of the business community about the importance of the Global Compact, social responsibility, public-private partnerships and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Global Compact, the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic, UNDP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination. Attention was focused on promoting social engagement and public-private partnerships in the Dominican Republic.

56. The Dominican Republic Family AIDS Programme is a partnership project within the framework of the Alliance. The partners are the Columbia University International Family AIDS Program, the Mission International Rescue Charities, the Sisters of Adoration (Roman Catholic nuns), the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative and the Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic. In the area of health care,

Columbia University helped in the coordination of public contributions raised to open a family AIDS clinic in February 2006. The clinic will serve the province of La Romana and will accept patients from the eastern region of the country. Currently, the clinic in La Romana has 1,046 HIV-infected children and adults registered for care, of whom 548 have been identified to receive long-term anti-retroviral therapy. The Mother-Baby HIV project, a collaboration between Columbia University, the municipal Francisco Gonzalvo Hospital, the Hickey Family Foundation and Rotary International, identifies and treats approximately 140 HIV-infected pregnant women each year in La Romana Province. Through the support of Rotary International, the project ensures clean water for HIV-infected patients and HIV-exposed infants through the use of Biosand home water filters and ensures clean water for mixing baby formula. Additionally, through a programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development and administered by Pact, education, capacity-building and micro-credit development programmes have been recently begun.

57. In the area of training and health, the Columbia University International Family AIDS Programme, the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative and the Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic established a training, education and technical assistance programme for Dominican health-care providers caring for HIV-infected children and adults. A number of doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors, lab technicians and other health-care providers from Dominican governmental and non-governmental organizations have received training and education on HIV. In addition, technical assistance was provided to the Dirección General de Infecciones de Transmisión Sexual y SIDA and the Consejo Presidencial del SIDA of the Ministry of Health, as well as to numerous non-governmental organizations. A project run by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, with funding from the Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation, New York, and the Mission International Rescue Charities, has sent 42 medical students and residents from the United States on month-long training rotations at the La Romana family AIDS clinic during the 2005/06 academic year. A total of 81 per cent of participants were from the Columbia University system and 17 per cent from Harvard University, Brown University, Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania and Baylor University. The remaining 2 per cent came from Europe.

58. The Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication in the Mediterranean and in the World and the University of Oklahoma have carried out two exploratory missions and are in close contact with the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technologies. The first mission was conducted in July 2006, the second in December 2006. The first mission culminated in the establishment of an ad hoc working group that includes the representatives of the community who have been given the task of preparing needs assessment for the community. The second mission comprised the Ministry, Stony Brook University, the University of Oklahoma and the Observatory. The interest shown in the project by the Government and the local community led to the establishment of a new facility accessible for all and an e-health project through the Constanza hospital aimed at providing early warnings for various health-related issues, such as HIV, tuberculosis, diabetics and hypertension. Other stakeholders in the projects included private sector companies, including Microsoft, Siemens, Telespazio and Pianeta.

59. A non-profit organization based in New York, the Public-Private Alliance Foundation, has drawn the attention of development partners in New York to the

efforts of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development and its potential for public-private partnerships in the Dominican Republic. It also helped draw the attention of the Alliance to partners in Santo Domingo and in the provinces of the Dominican Republic with high rates of poverty. The Foundation's activities had also focused on facilitating business associations in the Monte Plata Province for the promotion of fish-farming, cocoa, ethanol and pineapple production, women's entrepreneurship, microfinance and information technology.

2. Impact and challenges

60. Some examples of the impact of the public-private partnerships for rural development are set out below.

61. The primary accomplishment of the regional consultation on migration, remittances and development held in Santo Domingo in July 2006 (see para. 49 above), and the forum held in New York in September 2006, organized by the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy (see para. 51 above), was that they brought together a group of diverse stakeholders who agreed on tangible measures that could link remittances to inclusive financial goods and services and provide additional options to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The primary constraint was the lack of human and institutional capacity at the local and national levels. It is necessary to catalyse an enabling environment and to create effective public-private partnerships to achieve the desired objectives.

62. The IFAD projects in the three provinces with the highest rates of poverty have had a deep impact. Their activities, focusing on social investment, productive development and the financing of agricultural and non-agricultural activities, have achieved important results. Project outcomes included the strengthening and consolidation of social and economic organizations that benefited from a higher participation of women; the strengthening of local capacities and rural financial markets; and the systematic development of relations between poor peoples' organizations and local governments. To ensure the sustainability of services to the rural poor after its completion, the IFAD projects have made a significant contribution to the development of partnerships between beneficiary organizations, entities of central Government, local governments, intermediary financial institutions and the private sector. That was illustrated by the financing of a number of social and economic projects implemented by beneficiary organizations, the continuous support provided by international and local non-governmental organizations to cooperatives for the production and marketing of quality organic coffee and bananas, and public-private agreements for technical assistance to livestock producers.

63. The challenge for the Dominican Republic is to attract public-private partnerships for sustainable rural development in the following critical areas: (a) the institutional strengthening of private and public sector agribusiness; (b) capacity-building and empowerment of technical and operational personnel in different disciplines; (c) capacity-building to enhance food production; (d) social sector assistance; (e) the promotion of microfinance; and (f) the promotion of agro-forestry and reforestation.

III. Enhancing support for national mechanisms and global advocacy to promote partnerships for rural development

A. Capacity-development for national mechanisms

64. The primary function of the Alliances in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic is to play a catalytic role to facilitate, monitor and report on the promotion of partnerships for rural development. Experience in the two pilot countries indicate that human and institutional capacities need to be strengthened. In this regard, development partners, notably the United Nations system, should assist in capacity-development linked to the objective of the two pilot countries.

65. The role of Alliance Madagascar as a catalyst has fallen short of expectations. Efforts should be directed towards strengthening human and institutional capacities as well as providing financial support to the Alliance. Employing full-time managers with technical skills and well-equipped facilities for facilitating partnerships is of the utmost importance.

66. In the Dominican Republic, the Presidential Commission, which manages the Alliance platform, should enhance partnership projects commensurate with rural development needs. Efforts need to be directed towards strengthening its technical capacity to identify, facilitate and fast-track partnership projects. In this regard, the Commission should engage in stronger cooperation links at the national level with the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

B. Strengthening global advocacy

67. At the global level, the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has prepared advocacy products (available also in French and Spanish) for Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, and launched a new website to update stakeholders on progress achieved through Alliance partnerships (www.un.org/esa/coordination/Alliance/home). It has also helped to direct potential partners to Alliance representatives based in the Permanent Missions of Madagascar and of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations in New York.

68. The representatives of New York-based Alliances and the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination provided briefings, including through round-table and forum presentations, to various development partners. In 2004, Alliance Madagascar and the US-Madagascar Business Council jointly organized a business meeting in New York with the President of Madagascar that was attended by business representatives with various interests, ranging from tourism and infrastructures to mining and energy, including representatives from the Vanco Energy Company, Land O'Lakes, Inc,, Moving Water Industries and Air Madagascar. Various briefings were provided to the representatives of non-governmental/civil society organizations and the private sector on the potential areas for partnerships in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic. Some organizations have already made plans for partnership projects, while others are planning to expand their operations within the Alliance framework, including Opportunity International (United States), Franciscan International (United States), International Movement ATD Fourth World (France), the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

(United States), the Trestle Group (Switzerland) and the World Jewellery Confederation (Italy).

69. IFAD has pursued policy dialogue and advocacy to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of rural poverty, and to promote innovative approaches to rural development. In June 2005, IFAD, FAO, WFP and the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination jointly organized a ministerial review at Headquarters to consider progress in the implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2003 on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Participants in the meeting highlighted progress in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, especially from the perspective of the implementation of national commitments to rural poverty reduction and development in rural areas. The meeting contributed to a better understanding by the member States of the Council of the poverty situation in both countries and raised awareness regarding the role of rural development in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

IV. Some issues for consideration

70. Three years have elapsed since Madagascar, and two years since the Dominican Republic, were approved by the Economic and Social Council as the first and second pilot countries. Madagascar and the Dominican Republic established Alliance Madagascar and the Presidential Commission, respectively, as platforms to promote national and global partnerships for rural development. "Ownership" and "partnership" are the twin concepts on which the Alliances operate. The work of the Alliances in both countries has reached a critical juncture in the enhancement of partnership initiatives. Assistance for capacity-development is required to strengthen the effectiveness of the Alliance.

71. During the reporting period, Alliance Madagascar activities were hampered by critical human, institutional and financial constraints. Closer cooperation at the national level between the Alliance and the United Nations system should help to eliminate those constraints.

72. The Alliance in the Dominican Republic managed by the Presidential Commission functions on an established structure. The Alliance needs to be equipped effectively to mobilize partnerships and to conduct reviews periodically on progress and challenges to facilitate partnerships for sustainable rural development. The Government of the Dominican Republic seeks a greater increase in partnerships for such initiatives. The Presidential Commission and the United Nations system should forge closer ties in their efforts to scale-up partnerships at the national level. Training and technical support should be provided to enable officials to handle the Alliance platform effectively in their efforts to enhance partnerships.

V. Recommendations

73. The following actions are recommended to improve the effectiveness of the Alliances:

(a) The capacities of national mechanisms in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic should be enhanced through the provision of skills and knowledge aimed at promoting and sustaining effective vehicles for partnership development. **An evaluation should be conducted of the existing capacities and gaps of the relevant national mechanisms to ensure that they perform as effective platforms in the promotion and fast-tracking of public-private partnerships;**

(b) At the national level, Alliance Madagascar and the Presidential Commission should forge closer ties with development partners to ensure more coherent, demand-driven support. **Partners involved in Alliance projects should be encouraged to share their success stories and best practices, including those in the framework of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council;**

(c) **Global advocacy should be further strengthened to disseminate information to promote partnerships in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic. The partnership offices in United Nations system organizations, such as in UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund and UNESCO, should also assist in advocacy and facilitate partnerships in their respective thematic areas linked to rural development.**

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Products harmful to health and the environment

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 39/229, in which the Secretary-General was requested to report every three years, through the Economic and Social Council, on products harmful to health and the environment, including the review of the publication of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments. The List, containing restrictive regulatory decisions on chemicals and pharmaceuticals, is prepared based on information already available in bodies of the United Nations system, as part of an effort to disseminate information internationally on products harmful to health and the environment.

The report provides an overview of activities undertaken by United Nations entities and other major developments in the area of environmentally sound management of chemicals since the previous triennial review in 2004. It also contains recommendations for consideration by the Economic and Social Council.

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I. Introduction

1. The issue of products harmful to health and the environment was first discussed by the General Assembly in 1979. In its resolution 37/137, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments[1] on the basis of the work already being undertaken within the United Nations system. In its resolution 39/229, the Assembly decided, inter alia, that an updated Consolidated List should be issued annually and that the data should be made available to Governments and other users through direct computer access. In accordance with that decision, the format of the List has been kept under continued review, in cooperation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to its improvement, taking into account its complementary nature, the experience obtained and the views expressed by Governments. In the same resolution the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to inform the Assembly, at its forty-first session and every three years thereafter, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the aforementioned resolutions.

2. In response to its resolution 2001/33, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to look into the possibility of using online dissemination, in addition to preparing it for printing, List data was posted on the website of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in September 2003. In its most recent resolution concerning the List, 2004/55, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to update the electronic version of the Consolidated List, while printing only new data to complement previously printed issues for the benefit of those, particularly in developing countries, who may not have easy access to the electronic version.

3. The present report, covering the eighth triennial review of the Consolidated List, is prepared in compliance with the aforementioned and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (38/149 and 44/226) and of the Economic and Social Council (1998/41, 2001/33 and 2004/55). It provides an overview of major recent developments, reported by organizations of the United Nations system, regarding products that are harmful to human health and the environment, and makes proposals regarding the possible impact of those developments on the format, content, coverage, production schedule and distribution pattern of the List.

II. Review of the Consolidated List

A. Format, scope and content

4. Continuous review of the format and content of the Consolidated List have made it possible to expand its coverage and scope. While the List, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/137, has remained easy to read and understand, the number of products listed and the number of Governments reporting have increased

[1] See A/41/329-E/1986/83, A/44/276-E/1989/78, A/47/222-E/1992/57, A/50/182 and Corr.1-E/1995/66 and Corr.1, A/53/156-E/1998/78, A/56/115 and Corr.1-E/2001/92 and Corr.1 and A/59/81-E/2004/63.

regularly with each new issue. Thus, whereas the first issue of the List covered fewer than 500 products (both pharmaceuticals and chemicals) regulated by 60 Governments, the two most recent issues (one containing pharmaceuticals and the other, chemicals) together contain over 1,100 products regulated by 115 Governments.

5. The scope of information contained in the List has remained essentially the same over the years. The List is divided in two parts. Part I, compiled by the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), contains the text of restrictive regulatory decisions taken by competent national authorities on both pharmaceutical (monocomponents, combinations and groups) and chemical (agricultural and industrial) products. Consumer products have been included only when they are hazardous because of their chemical composition. Psychotropic and narcotic substances covered by international conventions are included only in cases where a country has notified WHO either that the substance is controlled more rigorously than is provided for under the relevant international conventions or that the substance has been subjected to national control before being considered for international scheduling. The List does not include many widely used industrial chemicals to which occupational exposure limits have been assigned by national authorities. Information on those products is available in publications of the International Labour Organization (ILO).[2] Similarly, relevant information on food additives, which fall outside the scope of the List, is considered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.[3] The regulatory information in the List also includes references to the relevant legal and statutory documents to enable the user to ascertain the legal context and scope of the regulations. There are, in addition, bibliographic references to scientific and technical studies by international organizations relating to chemical products. The List also includes an alphabetical and classified listing by use category of products, and three indexes: scientific and common names, trade/brand names and Chemical Abstract Service registry numbers.

6. WHO regularly provides explanatory comments regarding information on related national regulatory actions taken concerning most pharmaceutical products. Those comments contain useful information reflecting the position of Governments on their regulatory actions in the light of different national priorities, providing context for those actions. UNEP and the International Programme on Chemical Safety, however, are not able to provide similar comments on regulatory actions related to chemicals, because of the large number of products in which the chemicals appear and the many applications of those products. Nevertheless, in the case of pesticides and chemicals covered under the conventions, decision guidance documents, prepared by the Convention secretariats, provide detailed information, including summaries of risk and benefits and reasons for regulatory action.

7. Part II of the Consolidated List contains commercial information relating to a large proportion of the products included in Part I. The commercial data is compiled by the United Nations Secretariat from publicly available sources and includes information on the manufacturers of the products and the generic and, if available, proprietary trade names under which they are marketed worldwide. Only the name

[2] See http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/standard.htm#cr_specrisk.

[3] See http://www.codexalimentarius.net.

and location of the parent company are included in the List, even when the actual producer is a subsidiary located in another country. An effort is made to verify collected commercial data with the respective manufacturer before printing the List.

8. Recognizing that all pharmaceutical and chemical products are potentially harmful if not correctly used, it is worthwhile to highlight a number of considerations that may affect the contents of the Consolidated List, such as: (a) the fact that decisions taken by a limited number of Governments on a specific product may not be representative of the policy position of other Governments, particularly in view of differing risk/benefit considerations; (b) the fact that a given product is not included in the List as regulated by a country does not necessarily mean that its use is permitted in that country; rather, it may mean that the relevant regulatory decision to prohibit its use has not yet been communicated to the United Nations, WHO or UNEP; and (c) in the case of pharmaceuticals and pesticides, which are frequently subject to compulsory registration procedures, the product may not have been submitted for registration.

9. As previously noted, information on pharmaceutical products included in the List is provided by WHO, which collects and disseminates it through various exchange mechanisms, among them: (a) the international drug monitoring programme, which collaborates in monitoring suspected adverse drug reactions with the aim of identifying, at the earliest possible moment, the possibility of a drug producing undesirable effects which were not detected during its clinical trials; (b) the WHO certification scheme on the quality of pharmaceutical products moving in international commerce, through which the exporting country is required to certify, on request, the quality control standards for drugs; and in the case of a product not authorized for sale or distribution in the exporting country, the reasons are explicitly stated and, when relevant, grounds for refusal are disclosed; (c) WHO drug information circulars, containing information received from Member States on the safety and efficacy of drugs, including any decision to prohibit or limit the availability of a drug already in use, any decision to refuse the approval of a new drug and any approval when accompanied by restrictive provisions.

10. Information on a considerable number of chemical products and related data included in the Consolidated List have been provided by UNEP from a variety of sources, especially the legal file of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and submissions made under the original voluntary prior informed consent procedure. In 1995, however, UNEP ceased updating the legal file. In 1998, when the original voluntary prior informed consent procedure was superseded by the interim procedure, operated in accordance with the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention, it became apparent that virtually all the notifications of bans or severe restrictions previously submitted under the original procedure did not meet the new information requirements, as set out in annex I to that legally binding Convention. Consequently, the Convention secretariat considers as valid only those notifications of bans or severe restrictions that meet the requirements of the Convention. Notwithstanding that the number of products covered under the Convention is still rather limited, it would be useful to continue to provide information on identified restricted products through the List, until the Rotterdam Convention review process can take a decision on the inclusion of many of those products.

11. In connection with the asymmetry between the small number of chemical products currently covered under the chemicals conventions (Rotterdam and

Stockholm) and the large number of chemical products that are included in the Consolidated List (over 500), it is worthwhile to mention that it will take longer to add new products under the conventions, with their legally binding mandates, their focus on specific products and their strict criteria for the inclusion of new products, including detailed documentation. However, the List is an instrument mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/137, and others, with the primary responsibility of disseminating information available within the United Nations system on products harmful to health and the environment on which regulatory actions have been taken by Governments, to as wide an audience as possible.

12. It is also important to note that summaries of notification of regulatory action received by the Rotterdam Convention secretariat, if not satisfying all elements of the criteria specified in annex I to the Convention, are not published; only limited information is circulated. Irrespective of the decision of the Convention secretariat, those notifications are deemed to be valid within respective issuing countries and thus considered for inclusion in the List.

B. Utilization and dissemination

13. In view of the growing amount of data included in the List, at the 1996 inter-agency consultative meeting it was decided to divide the single annual issue into two, to be printed in alternate years, containing chemical and pharmaceutical data. Dividing the List into two separate issues has aided not only in the handling of large and growing databases, but also has made it possible to print the number of copies according to the needs of each group of users, thereby facilitating the distribution of the publication to a more focused group of users every year.

14. The List continues to present, in a unified manner, information available in bodies of the United Nations system on restrictive regulatory decisions taken by Governments on a range of pharmaceutical and chemical products. As such, it is a recognized source of valuable information that enables Governments to ensure access to information that may be useful in taking appropriate regulatory measures for the use of pharmaceutical and chemical products in the light of their particular national circumstances. The provision of information on the trade names under which the products are marketed adds value to the List and makes it easier for national authorities and others monitoring such activities to identify a restricted product available in a local market. The identification of a product with its manufacturer also provides access to safety data sheets and other information available from the manufacturer In addition, commercial data provides an easy method to cross-reference trade names with recognized common scientific names under which most regulatory information is available. Other users of the List include intergovernmental organizations, academic institutions, concerned non-governmental organizations, the media and other members of civil society. The List has proved to be an important tool for public interest and consumer groups because it brings to the attention of Governments and manufacturers the need to remove hazardous products from the marketplace and raises awareness among public officials and non-governmental organizations of the health-related effects of using certain products.

15. As mentioned previously, in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/33, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to look

into the possibility of online dissemination of the List, the eighth issue of the List, containing complete historical data on pharmaceuticals, was the first to be printed as well as posted on the website of the Office of Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in September 2003.

16. Since then, two issues, containing the most recent data available on chemicals and pharmaceuticals, have been posted on the Internet and a short version of each has been published containing only information arising or updated since the publication of the respective previous issue. The short version is printed for the benefit of those users, particularly in developing countries, who may not have easy access to the Internet, or those who would like to continue to receive the printed publication for reasons of their own. It is recommended that the short version be used in conjunction with the previous printed issues of the List.

17. Starting with the second issue of the Consolidated List, a questionnaire has been included for the purpose of assisting the Secretariat to determine the use to which it is being put. The List continues to play an important role in facilitating information and decision-making concerning products that are restricted in some countries but still available in others.

III. Developments since the previous triennial report

A. International cooperation mechanisms and chemical conventions

18. Since the adoption of Agenda 21, by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[4] the work of the organizations of the United Nations system has reflected the preoccupation with the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. The current work on products harmful to health and the environment is based generally on the principles indicated in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, which encourages increased national and international efforts. The International Programme on Chemical Safety[5] was designated as the nucleus for international cooperation. Chapter 19 calls also for increased coordination of United Nations bodies and other international organizations involved in the assessment and management of chemicals. That has led to the establishment of two new coordination mechanisms, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, to strengthen coordination at the international level.

19. In September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development[6] adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[6] which reflected renewed commitments to the sound management of chemicals and included some new commitments and targets, such as (a) the aim to achieve, by 2020, the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See http://www.who.int/pcs.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

and the environment; (b) the development, by 2005, of a strategic approach to international chemicals management; (c) national implementation of the new globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, to be fully operational by 2008; (d) the entry into force of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, by 2003 and 2004, respectively; (e) the development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals, such as through national pollutant release and transfer registers; (f) the reduction of risks posed by heavy metals; and (g) issues related to hazardous waste. The World Summit provided fresh impetus to the ongoing work of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental processes concerned with the environmentally sound management of chemicals. A brief summary of the activities undertaken by some of those mechanisms since the previous report of the Secretary-General is provided below.

1. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

20. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals[7] was established in 1995, in response to the Rio Summit, to serve as a mechanism to coordinate the efforts of intergovernmental organizations in the assessment and management of chemicals. It provides a forum for its seven member and two observer organizations[8] to collaborate as partners in the promotion of international work related to the environmentally sound management of chemicals, within the framework of their own respective mandates. The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety carries out a number of activities related to the safety of chemicals as a contribution to the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

21. An Inter-organization Coordinating Committee brings together representatives of the participating organizations of Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals for consultations on the planning, programming, implementation and monitoring of their activities. The Committee has established coordinating groups, which enable interested organizations working in those areas to discuss ways and means of ensuring that their activities are mutually supportive, to monitor progress and to identify issues of concern. Those coordinating groups have dealt with such issues as the harmonization of chemical classification systems; information exchange on chemicals; pollutant release and transfer registers; assessment of existing chemicals; chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response; and identification and management of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and other chemicals. The Committee has direct responsibility for the coordination of the capacity-building activities of the participating organizations.

2. Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

22. In 1994, the International Conference on Chemical Safety established the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.[9] The Forum brings together public

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[7] For further information, see http://www.who.int/iomc.

[8] FAO, ILO, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research and WHO, and two observer organizations, United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

[9] See http://www.who.int/ifcs.

and private stakeholders, including Governments, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society, in efforts to arrive at policy guidance and strategies to build partnerships and enhance coordination in the promotion of chemical safety. The Forum, a non-institutional organization, has held five sessions since its inception.

23. At its first session, in 1994, the Forum adopted priorities for action for the effective implementation of the programme areas set out in chapter 19 of Agenda 21. In Ottawa in 1997, at its second session, the Forum provided further recommendations to the General Assembly, at its special session in 1997, for the review of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. The third session, in 2000, adopted the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000.

24. The fourth session, which was held in Bangkok in 2003 under the theme "Chemical safety in a vulnerable world", focused on the topics of children and chemical safety, occupational safety and health, generation and availability of hazard data, acutely toxic pesticides and capacity-building, and adopted resolutions and made recommendations on (a) a globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals; (b) the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products; and (c) a strategic approach to international chemicals management.

25. The fifth session, held in Budapest in September 2006, under the theme "Chemical safety for sustainable development", considered issues including precaution, heavy metals, toys and chemical safety and the future of the Forum. It identified a series of potential next steps to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition with tools and approaches to applying the precautionary approach in the domestic decision-making processes. The Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium was issued, which combines the possibility of strengthening the use of voluntary instruments for those three heavy metals and the opportunity to consider a legally binding instrument for mercury to address the risks it poses to human health and the environment. In the light of the final agreement reached on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (see paras. 36-42), a working group was established to prepare a draft decision on the future role and functions of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety to avoid duplication and to achieve an efficient institutional assessment that maximizes synergies and cost effectiveness. The decision will be presented to the sixth session, which will take place in Dakar, probably in 2009.

3. Persistent organic pollutants (Stockholm Convention)

26. Persistent organic pollutants,[10] attracted attention owing to evidence that exposure to very low doses can pose a risk to human health and the environment. In 1997, after assessing available information and concluding there was a need for international action, the Governing Council requested that UNEP convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, beginning with the 12 specified persistent organic pollutants.[11] The

[10] See http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops.

[11] Nine pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene; two industrial chemicals: hexachlorobenzene and polychlorinated biphenyls; and two unintended by-products: dioxins and furans.

Committee held five sessions from 1998 to 2000 to conclude negotiations on a convention (the Stockholm Convention), which was signed in May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May 2004.

27. The Convention called for international action on 12 persistent organic pollutants in three categories: pesticides, industrial chemicals and unintended by-products. Governments were asked to promote the best available techniques and best environmental practices to replace existing persistent organic pollutants and prevent the development of new ones. Criteria and procedures have been developed to identify other such chemicals. Other key elements of the Convention included the provision by developed countries of new and additional financial resources; control measures to eliminate the production and use of intentionally produced persistent organic pollutants; the elimination of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, where feasible; environmentally sound management and disposal of persistent organic pollutant wastes; and substitution involving the use of safer chemicals and processes to prevent toxic by-products.

28. The first Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, which was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in May 2005, decided on the evaluation of the continued need for DDT use for disease vector control and established: (a) a review process for entries in the register of specific exemptions; (b) a reporting schedule; (c) arrangements for monitoring data on persistent organic pollutants; and (d) a review committee. It adopted guidelines for the financial mechanism, rules of procedures, financial rules and a budget for the secretariat.

29. The second Conference was held in Geneva, from 1 to 5 May 2006. It adopted 18 decisions on, inter alia, DDT, exemptions, financial resources and mechanisms, implementation plans, technical assistance, synergies and effectiveness evaluation. The third Conference was scheduled to take place in April and May 2007, in Dakar.

30. The first meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee was held in November 2005, in Geneva, and considered five chemicals proposed for inclusion in the Convention. The Committee agreed that all five chemicals fulfilled the criteria for inclusion and asked the parties to submit information to develop risk profiles. The second Review Committee meeting, held in November 2006, also in Geneva, approved the risk profiles and agreed that the five new proposals submitted for consideration fulfilled the criteria for inclusion.

4. Prior informed consent (Rotterdam Convention)

31. As a result of continuous collaboration that began in 1989 between FAO and UNEP on the principle of prior informed consent,[12] the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, held in the Netherlands on 10 September 1998 adopted the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. The Convention was signed by 72 States and one regional economic integration organization and entered into force on 24 February 2004. UNEP and FAO were jointly designated as the secretariat for the Convention.

32. The objective of the Convention is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous

[12] See http://www.pic.int.

chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, thereby providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and disseminating such decisions to the parties. The Convention applies to banned or severely restricted chemicals or pesticides and also includes severely hazardous pesticide formulations that are not otherwise banned or severely restricted by the Convention. It originally covered 27 products,[13] including 17 pesticides, 5 severely hazardous pesticide formulations and 5 industrial chemicals. A total of 39 chemicals are currently subject to the interim prior informed consent procedure, 28 pesticides including severely hazardous pesticide formulations and 11 industrial chemicals.

33. After reviewing notifications of the final regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict 14 chemicals, at its first session, in Geneva in February 2005, the Chemicals Review Committee of the Convention concluded that only one notification on chrysotile asbestos met the information requirement for inclusion in annex III of the Convention and established a workplan for the preparation of a decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos.

34. The second Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, held in Rome in September 2005, adopted 15 decisions on, inter alia: the programme of work and the budget for 2006; operational procedures of the Chemicals Review Committee; the final decision by UNEP and FAO regarding the provision of the secretariat; pilot projects on the delivery of regional technical assistance; and cooperation and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention secretariats. At its second meeting, in Geneva in February 2006, the Chemicals Review Committee of the Convention discussed risk evaluations and trade restrictions under other multilateral environmental agreements and their relevance to chemicals eligible for inclusion in the Convention. The Committee agreed on the draft text of the decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos, and that endosulfan and tributyl tin compounds had met the requirement for inclusion. It started work on drafting decision-guidance documents and agreed also that once the second notification had been received, as required, alachlor, mirex, cyhexatin and dicofol would meet the requirement for inclusion and that the decision-guidance documents would be drafted for those chemicals.

35. The third Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention was held from 9 to 13 October 2006, in Geneva. It considered several reports and adopted 16 decisions, including those concerning a programme of work, its 2007-2008 budget, the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos, financial mechanisms, non-compliance and cooperation and coordination among the secretariats of the chemicals conventions. The Conference deferred a decision on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos and did not reach an agreement on the finalization of procedures and mechanisms to address non-compliance with the Convention, owing to a lack of consensus on both issues.

[13] They are 17 pesticides (2, 4, 5-T, aldrin, captafol, chlordane, chlordimeform, chlorobenzilate, DDT, dieldrin, dinoseb and dinoseb salts, EDB (1, 2-dibromoethane), fluoroacetamide, HCH (mixed isomers), heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, lindane (gamma-HCH), mercury compounds and pentachlorophenol), 5 severely hazardous pesticide formulations (methamidophos, methylparathion monocrotophos, parathions and phosphamidon) and 5 industrial chemicals (crocidolite, polybrominated biphenyls, polychlorinated biphenyls, polychlorinated terphenyls and Tris (2, 3-dibromopropyl) phosphate), which were originally included in the Convention in September 1998.

However, progress was made on important policy and operational issues, including sustainable financing and capacity-building, and synergies on cooperation and coordination among the secretariats of the chemicals conventions. At its third meeting, in Rome from 20 to 23 March 2007, the Chemicals Review Committee recommended two more pesticides, endosulfan and tributyl tin compounds, for inclusion in the prior informed consent procedure under the Convention. The fourth Conference of the Parties will take place in Rome, in October 2008, to decide, inter alia, whether to accept the recommendations of the Committee.

5. Strategic approach to international chemicals management

36. The initiative of UNEP to develop a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,[14] based on the Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety and on the Priorities for Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for the completion of the process by 2005, in order to achieve effective management of risks throughout the life cycle of production, use and disposal of chemicals, by 2020. The key feature of the process was its engagement of all sectors of society with an interest in chemical safety, including the environment, health, agriculture, labour, industry and development.

37. In February 2003, the UNEP Governing Council endorsed the concept of an international conference, with preparatory meetings, as the basis for developing such an approach through an open, transparent and inclusive process. Both the World Health Assembly, in May 2003, and the International Labour Conference, in June 2003, supported the process. The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, at its fourth session, discussed the subsequent development of a Strategic Approach and forwarded a report to the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

38. The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was held in Bangkok, in November 2003. It discussed potential issues to be addressed and examined ways to structure the discussion and considered possible outcomes of the process. There was broad support for a three-tiered process towards a Strategic Approach: a global programme of action with targets and timetables; an overarching policy strategy; and a high-level declaration. The second Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Preparatory Committee meeting, which took place in October 2004 in Nairobi, discussed elements for an overarching policy strategy for international chemicals management, made progress in creating a matrix of possible concrete measures to include in the global plan of action and provided comments on an initial list of issues for a high-level political declaration. The third meeting of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Preparatory Committee was held in Vienna, in September 2005, where the same three issues, high-level declaration, overarching policy strategy and a global plan of action, were discussed, but agreement could not be reached on several aspects of all three areas, including principles and approaches, description of the Strategic Approach as "voluntary", financial considerations and the timing and frequency of future sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

[14] See http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

39. The International Conference on Chemicals Management was held in February 2006, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Delegates at the Conference, after discussing issues pending from the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee, agreed on a compromise text. The core disagreement was over the application of the precautionary approach to chemicals management and new and additional resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Conference, after completing negotiations, adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, including a high-level declaration, overarching policy strategy and a global plan of action. The implementation of the plan, which included activities with targets and timetables, if widely applied would make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the 2020 targets set in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. UNEP was given overall administrative responsibility for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management secretariat, in coordination and/or cooperation with Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals member organizations, the United Nations Development Programme and other intergovernmental organizations.

40. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in cooperation with other bodies, organized a workshop on governance in relation to implementing the Strategic Approach at the national level, in Geneva in June 2006. The overarching policy strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management provides that each Government should establish arrangements for implementing the Strategic Approach and should designate a Strategic Approach focal point to facilitate communication, both nationally and internationally. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management secretariat invited Governments to designate a national focal point and, as at November 2006, over 100 had been nominated. Canada had proposed a project to develop guidance for the secretariat, in consultations with stakeholders, to assist in the development of reporting modalities, as its contribution to the Strategic Approach. The project will address the preparation of a baseline report, the development of indicators for subsequent progress reports and arrangements for gathering information from stakeholders.

41. The regional meetings called for in the overarching policy strategy by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, in its resolution 1/1, are a key element in the collective efforts to start the implementation process. Following the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, its secretariat had organized, in collaboration with Governments, four regional meetings (in Cairo, Barcelona, Spain, Riga and Bangkok). Those meetings provided a forum to discuss strategic priorities, share technical experience and exchange information crucial to regions' efforts to implement the Approach. They help in drafting regional action plans, in drawing terms of reference of regional core groups and regional focal points, in selecting regional representatives for the Quick Start Programme Executive Board and in developing regional projects that could be considered for funding under the Quick Start Programme trust fund.

42. The overarching policy strategy on financial considerations provided that initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of the objectives of the Approach would be supported by the establishment of the Quick Start Programme, which would contain a voluntary, time-limited trust fund, administered by UNEP. The objective was to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation

activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition. The secretariat is developing a business plan or resource mobilization strategy to help secure the sustainability of the Programme.

B. Other developments

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

43. The ongoing work to harmonize the classification and labelling of chemicals was brought under the auspices of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems, with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Europe, ILO and the Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods as active members. It was created in 1999, when the Economic and Social Council broadened the mandate of the main Committee. The Globally Harmonized System was adopted by the Subcommittee in December 2002, and endorsed by the Council in 2003. The System is now being implemented by countries as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to be fully operational by 2008. The UNITAR/ILO/Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals Globally Harmonized System capacity-building programme has developed partnership activities and is providing support to assist countries to develop and implement the System to achieve the 2008 target.

Heavy metals: mercury, lead and cadmium

44. Based on the work carried out by the Global Mercury Assessment Working Group at its twenty-third session, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a report for submission to its next session on supply, trade and demand for mercury on the global market, and also to facilitate the establishment of partnerships between Governments and other stakeholders, as one approach to reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury, and to assist in the mobilization of resources to support those partnerships. The decision also encouraged Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to take immediate action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes. The Governing Council decided also to assess the need for further action on mercury, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions, at its next session, in 2007. On lead and cadmium, the Governing Council requested to undertake a review of scientific information, focusing on long-range environmental transport, and to continue future discussions on the need for global action on lead and cadmium.

45. At its twenty-fourth session, the UNEP Governing Council, acknowledging the progress made within the mercury programme, outlined priorities in reducing risks from releases of mercury, urged Governments to gather information on means to reduce the risk caused by the supply of mercury and requested the UNEP Executive Director to prepare a report on mercury emissions and ways to strengthen mercury partnerships. The Governing Council established an ad hoc open-ended working group of Government and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options

for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments, and asked the group to provide a final report at its next session in 2009, for a decision on the matter. At the same session, the Governing Council urged stakeholders to fill gaps regarding lead and cadmium, encouraged Governments to reduce risks posed to human health and the environment and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to compile an inventory of existing risk management measures.

Multilateral environmental agreements

46. Since 1997, the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization has been holding annual information sessions on multilateral environmental agreements, at which the secretariats of agreements, including those of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, have given presentations on various trade-related aspects of their work, including technical assistance, capacity-building and information exchange. The sessions were intended to enhance understanding of, in particular, compliance mechanisms and dispute settlement provisions in the agreements and in the rules of the World Trade Organization. Of approximately 200 such agreements, about 20, including the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, contain trade-related provisions. In 2001, the Doha Ministerial Declaration[15] mandated, among other measures, (a) negotiations on the relationship between existing World Trade Organization rules and specific trade obligations set out in the agreements, and (b) procedures concerning the regular exchange of information among agreement secretariats and the relevant World Trade Organization committees and the criteria for the granting of observer status. The importance of technical assistance and capacity-building was recognized in the area of trade and environment and exchange of expertise and experience was encouraged on national environmental reviews.

47. The Committee on Trade and Environment, through its special sessions, has been conducting negotiations on those issues and some progress was reported at the Fifth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003. There was general agreement that existing forms of cooperation and an exchange of information between the World Trade Organization and multilateral environmental agreements had proved to be valuable and should be enhanced. The Committee had invited some agreement secretariats, on an ad hoc basis, to its two special sessions in 2003, and hope was expressed that the cooperation would continue. Following the resumption of the Doha Round, the Committee, at its special session held on 1 and 2 March 2007, considered a proposal by the United States of America on information exchange between agreement secretariats and relevant World Trade Organization committees. The proposal also addressed the issue of the observer status of multilateral environmental agreements in other World Trade Organization committees. The United States also proposed granting seven secretariats permanent, rather than the current ad hoc, observer status for the remainder of the Doha Round. At the following meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment special session, which was held on 3 and 4 May 2007, a Canadian proposal on the observer status of agreements in the World Trade Organization was formally presented, which seeks to bridge the gap among various proposals on the issue within organization proceedings.

[15] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

IV. Future trends and emerging issues

48. In addition to the entry into force of the Stockholm and the Rotterdam Conventions, in 2004, the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in February 2006, provided real impetus to the World Summit on Sustainable Development aim of ensuring that, by 2020, chemicals will be used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. It has also emphasized the wide gap that exists between developed and developing countries' ability to implement chemicals management policies. Any meaningful progress towards chemicals management at the national level will ultimately depend on the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building in developing countries, which will require additional financial resources (both domestic and foreign) to support national efforts.

49. Ever since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, in 2004, the issue of synergies within chemicals and waste has been actively explored to improve cooperation among the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Those efforts led to the formation of an ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Conventions, with the mandate to prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination for submission to their conferences of the parties. At its first meeting, in March 2007, the joint working group reached agreement on a non-exhaustive list of objectives and guiding principles for its future work. It also agreed on three broad categories: (a) activities already under way to enhance cooperation; (b) activities to enhance further administrative and programmatic cooperation and coordination; and (c) activities relating to decision-making and oversight. At that meeting, the working group focused mainly on the activities under (b) and (c) and agreed to revisit the activities under (a). The next meeting of the joint working group will probably be held in December 2007.

50. The European Parliament, after three years of negotiations, adopted a comprehensive law on the manufacturing, marketing, import and use of chemical substances on 18 December 2006. The Regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals aims to protect consumers and the environment from the adverse effects of chemicals found in such products as paint, detergent, cars and computers. Under the Regulation, 30,000 chemicals produced in or imported into the European Union will be registered over the next 10 years with a central agency, to be established in Helsinki. The most hazardous chemicals will be subject to testing, and their use will require authorization. Persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic chemicals will be phased out if suitable alternatives exist. If not, companies will have to submit a plan for the development of such alternatives. The legislation places the burden of proof on the chemicals industry, with the public sector responsible for oversight. Thousands of chemicals that have been in use for years without testing will now undergo screening. The Regulation will enter into force on 1 June 2007.

51. One of the main activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in fostering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is the promotion of chemical leasing business models through the worldwide cleaner production network, a service-oriented business model that shifts the focus from increasing sales volumes of chemicals towards a value added approach. The producer mainly sells the functions performed by the

chemical and the functional units are the main basis for payment. UNIDO, in cooperation with others, is presently implementing chemical leasing pilot projects in the Russian Federation, Egypt and Mexico. In this business model, the supplier takes responsibility for the use of the chemical, its recycling and its treatment and disposal. The results of the pilot projects are very encouraging and have demonstrated that chemical leasing is a win-win situation, in which chemicals are used more efficiently and risks to human health and the environment are reduced.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

52. There are thousands of chemicals available on the market and hundreds more are added each year, which poses a huge challenge for Governments, especially in developing countries, related to the monitoring and management of potentially dangerous substances that are essential in the everyday lives of their citizens. Generally, in the past, a piecemeal approach had been employed in dealing with the management of hazardous products. However, with the life-cycle management approach, which aims to achieve an effective management of risks throughout the life cycle of a chemical, from production and use to the treatment and disposal of waste, as the cornerstone of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management process, Member States must fully implement national development strategies consistent with the Approach to achieve the 2020 targets, as endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Recommendation 1

53. **The Economic and Social Council may wish to recommend that Member States fully implement national development strategies to achieve the 2020 target on the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.**

54. Recent positive developments in the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals, through the implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in 2006, all point to the overwhelming need for technical assistance and capacity-building in order for developing countries not only to comply with existing international mechanisms, but also to make further progress at the national level in the area. The expansion of capacity-building activities will be contingent upon the availability of substantial new financial resources to support national activities in the management of products harmful to health and the environment.

Recommendation 2

55. **The Council may wish to recommend to multilateral and bilateral agencies the continuation of the strengthening of capacity-building and technical assistance activities in developing countries and to urge donor agencies to provide additional financial resources in support of national efforts to improve the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals.**

56. The Rotterdam Convention has put an effective system in place to avoid many of the dangerous practices of the past decades, when people were less aware of the dangers of toxic chemicals. The Convention offers parties, particularly in

developing countries, the tools they need to protect their citizens and strengthen their management of chemicals. They can now decide which potentially hazardous chemicals they want to import and which to exclude because they cannot manage them safely. Also, in the light of the additional information available, electronically and otherwise, under other chemicals conventions, such as the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, the publication of the List is redundant, although as noted in the recommendations in his report on the review of mandates, the Secretary-General considered that over the years the List had served its purpose very well.

Recommendation 3

57. **The Council may wish to consider recommending the elimination of the mandate of regularly updating the List, as contained in General Assembly resolution 37/137.**

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Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The fifth results-oriented annual progress report shows continued strong economic performance by least developed countries, with fewer countries, mainly Pacific islands, lagging behind. Social indicators are also improving, but overall socio-economic progress in African least developed countries has been significantly compromised by continuing population growth driven by the highest fertility in the world. International support for health is paying dividends in African least developed countries, but malnutrition appears to be worsening, particularly in rural areas where agriculture can hardly keep up with rapid population growth, environmental degradation and challenges associated with climate change. As a result, African least developed countries increasingly face food shortages, disruption of food supplies and famine.

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Achieving the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action requires greater donor focus on enhancing the productive capacity of least developed countries particularly in agriculture. Donors should also increase allocation of aid to physical infrastructure and technological development to increase the productivity and competitiveness of least developed countries. Above all, donors need to make significant efforts to increase their aid volumes in order to achieve the internationally agreed goals of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income as official development assistance to least developed countries by 2010 and improve aid effectiveness (ownership, harmonization, alignment, results and mutual accountability) as agreed in Rome and Paris.

Strong commitment by least developed countries and their development partners to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme and full adherence to the principles of country ownership, an integrated approach, result-orientation, genuine partnership and market considerations in its implementation are crucial to further progress.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/41 and General Assembly resolution 61/211 in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit an annual analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

2. The report assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action by measuring progress made by least developed countries and development partners towards achieving 30 international development goals and the targets contained therein. To the extent possible, it also provides information about the implementation of commitments: measures adopted by least developed countries and their development partners aimed at achieving the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action.

3. As in the past, the report follows the structure of the Programme of Action and contains a statistical annex with country data. All sources are provided at the bottom of each table.

4. As for graduation, in the 2006 triennial review (E/2006/33), the Committee for Development Policy recommended that Papua New Guinea be included in and Samoa be graduated from the list of least developed countries. However, in its decision 2006/266, the Council, upon the request of the Government of Papua New Guinea,[1] decided to defer consideration of the Committee recommendation on Papua New Guinea to its substantive session of 2007. Furthermore, in its decision 2007/212, the Council also requested that the Committee examine the issues raised by Samoa and submit its report and recommendation to the Council (see E/2007/12). The same review also found Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu eligible for graduation for the first time. In accordance with the established procedures, they will be considered for graduation at the next triennial review.

II. Implementation of the Programme of Action

Commitment 1
Fostering a people-centred policy framework

5. The overarching objective of the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 is to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 and promote sustainable development of least developed countries through significant and steady economic growth. To this end, it set targets of at least 7 per cent annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth and a 25 per cent ratio of investment to GDP per annum for least developed countries.

6. Remarkably, in 2005, 30 least developed countries met or were on track to the 7 per cent growth target, compared to 24 in the period 2000 to 2004, and the number of countries experiencing negative growth declined from five from 2000 to 2004 to two in 2005. At the regional level, the African least developed countries easily met or were close to the 7 per cent growth target, while the Asian least developed

[1] Inclusion in the list of least developed countries is subject to a country's acceptance.

countries accelerated modestly and the Pacific island least developed countries slipped from slow to near-zero growth during the period from 1995 to 2005. However, fast growth in African least developed countries has been seriously compromised by rapid population growth, while the economies of Asian least developed countries grew at a rate almost three times greater than did their populations, and the countries were able to benefit even from modest economic growth.

7. In 2005, 30 least developed countries achieved or were on track to reach the target of a 25 per cent ratio of investment to GDP, compared to 25 during the period from 2003 to 2004. However, the number of least developed countries with low ratios increased from 9 in 2003/2004 to 11 in 2005.

8. The latest data for a limited number of least developed countries suggests significant declines in the extreme poverty rate since 1990 in a greater number of least developed countries than previously reported. If confirmed and sustained in other least developed countries, these trends could serve as the first indication of a reversal of the increases in extreme poverty in least developed countries observed over the last two decades.

9. Fewer least developed countries than last year are making significant progress towards the goal of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger as a result of low agricultural productivity and recurrent natural disasters, but in an increasing number of least developed countries, undernourishment is relatively moderate.

10. Pro-poor growth and poverty reduction have been integrated into national poverty reduction strategies and poverty reduction strategy papers of least developed countries. As of 31 January 2007, 36 least developed countries had participated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process. Seven of them had interim poverty reduction strategy papers and 22 had prepared their first poverty reduction strategy papers. Seven other least developed countries have prepared their second poverty reduction strategy papers and Burkina Faso submitted its first progress report on the implementation of its second poverty reduction strategy paper.

11. Consistent with the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1) in which world leaders resolved to adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, at least 4 least developed countries have been completing their national development strategies and 18 least developed countries have been refining their poverty reduction strategy papers with a view to achieving international development goals. Another 25 least developed countries, including 15 in Africa, are at the initial stage of this process and completing their needs assessment, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. Four least developed countries (Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania) are among the first eight pilot countries for the One United Nations programme, which aims to ensure greater coherence and effectiveness of United Nations development efforts at the country level.

Commitment 2
Good governance at the national and international levels

12. The Brussels Programme of Action underscores the critical importance of good governance at the national and international levels for achieving its objectives, goals and targets. Although the least developed countries have made substantial efforts to improve governance, the challenges that remain are still enormous (see http://www.un.org/ohrlls).

13. Analysis of *Worldwide Governance Indicators 2006*, the most comprehensive source of aggregate indicators for measuring governance,[2] shows that political stability and non-violence, the rule of law and control of corruption have been improving, but performance on voice and accountability and government effectiveness has been weakening in least developed countries since 1996. In 2005, Bhutan, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu scored highest among the least developed countries on political stability and the rule of law. The same countries, minus Bhutan, scored the highest on voice and accountability, while Bhutan scored the highest among all least developed countries on control of corruption. All least developed countries had very low scores in regulatory quality and government effectiveness. Overall, compared to other groups of countries, least developed countries performed slightly better than low-income countries in 2005, but worse than lower middle-income countries and significantly worse than upper-middle-income countries.

14. In 2005, 46 least developed countries were eligible for external lending from the International Development Association. The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) rating of good governance performance is the major determinant in the allocation of interest-free credits and Association grants to eligible countries. It measures economic and social policies aimed at promotion of growth and poverty reduction on a scale from one (weak) to six (strong). The 2005 CPIA rating shows that least developed countries scored 3.4 on economic management (macroeconomic, fiscal policy and debt policy); 3.3 on structural policies (trade, financial sector, business regulatory environment); 3.2 on policies for social inclusion/equity; and 3.0 on public sector management and institutions (property rights and rule-based government, quality of budget and finance management, efficiency of revenue mobilization, quality of public administration, transparency and accountability and corruption in public sector).

15. The average Association country performance rating of least developed countries, derived from their overall CPIA and portfolio performance (development project and programme management), shows that 11 out of 46 least developed countries eligible for Association grants demonstrated strong (above 3.5) governance performance in 2005, but the remaining 35 had weak (below 3.5) governance performance for the same year. Very strong (above five) governance performance was demonstrated only by Bhutan and Samoa. By comparison, 9 out of 43 least developed countries eligible for an Association grant[3] demonstrated strong

[2] The indicators, derived from 276 variables, are drawn from 31 sources and 25 organizations. They measure good governance performance on the scale from -2.5 to 2.5 in the following six areas: (a) voice and accountability; (b) political stability and absence of violence; (c) government effectiveness; (d) regulatory quality; (e) rule of law; and (f) control of corruption. For more information, see info.worldbank.org/wbi//governance.

[3] Afghanistan, Liberia, Myanmar, Somali and Timor-Leste were not rated in 2004 CPIA exercise.

governance performance and 34 least developed countries had weak governance performance in the 2004 CPIA rating. In the 2003 rating, 8 out of 43 least developed countries eligible for an Association grant demonstrated strong governance performance and 35 least developed countries had weak governance performance.[4] This suggests steady but very slow progress by least developed countries.

16. Poor governance (weak legal and regulatory framework, weak institutions, lack of transparency and accountability, checks and balances, etc.) often results in corruption, which can take the form of misuse of public office for private gain. Corruption, in turn, leads to the depletion of domestic resources, deters new investments, causes public services to deteriorate, leads to economic stagnation and, ultimately, exacerbates poverty and human suffering.

17. Since corruption leaves no paper trail and takes many forms (rent seeking, graft, bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, embezzlement, kickbacks, etc.), perceptions of corruption based on individual experience are sometimes the only source of information. The Kaufmann-Kraay Control of Corruption Index and the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index provide the most comprehensive tools for measuring corruption. The 2006 Transparency International Index rating on a scale from ten (very clean) to zero (very corrupt) shows that eight out of ten of the worst performers are least developed countries. Even the least developed countries with the best results score below three. Bhutan is the only least developed country which scores relatively high (six). The Kaufman-Kraay Index, which measures control of corruption on a scale from -2.5 to +2.5, with a higher score indicating a higher degree of control of corruption, shows that except for Bhutan (0.69), all 34 least developed countries included in the rating scored well below zero.

18. More than half of least developed countries adopted at least one reform in 2006 in order to improve their business climate. Several least developed countries have adopted significant reforms, including Tanzania, which introduced reforms in four areas (starting a business, registering property, protecting investors and cross-border trade), thereby joining the list of top world reformers. However, compared to other categories of countries, least developed countries were the most difficult countries in which to do business. All 10 world bottom performers in that category in 2006 were least developed countries, except one.[5]

19. Many least developed countries undertook measures and adopted policies in order to attract foreign investments. As of October 2005, 40 least developed countries had established national Investment Promotion Agencies to promote foreign direct investment, and 28 least developed countries joined the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, with a view to networking and sharing experience related to foreign direct investment. While most of the agencies established by least developed countries are focused on disseminating information about their countries as favourable locations for foreign direct investment, some assist foreign investors with the preparation of pre-investment feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments as part of their investment promotion package.

[4] 2003 CPIA and country performance rating for IDA 12 and 2003 CPIA and country performance rating for IDA 12 were disclosed on a quintile basis. In 2004, CPIA rating methodology was revised. Accordingly, the 2003 CPIA data was also revised to ensure comparability of the scores across years.

[5] *Doing Business in 2007: How to Reform* (World Bank, 2006).

Other agencies (those of Madagascar and the Sudan) serve as one-stop shops that establish rules and regulations for foreign direct investment, approve projects and facilitate the entry of foreign firms by assisting foreign investors in obtaining licences and registration, dealing with local and provincial governments, joint venture partners, suppliers, tax and customs authorities and line ministries. Several agencies also provide project implementation and post-investment services to ensure that foreign investors who have already entered will stay and expand, either in the same industry or another one.

20. To avoid the resource curse of the past, when windfall revenues from natural resources exploitation often increased poverty and fuelled conflicts, some least developed countries have joined the two major global transparency initiatives: the Extractive industries transparency initiative, for transparency in the use of revenues from natural resources, and the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for the prevention of conflict diamond production.

21. As of January 2007, ten natural resource-rich least developed countries had endorsed the Extractive industries transparency initiative principles and pledged to adhere to them: to publish regularly all payments by companies and all material revenues received by the Government in a form which is accessible and comprehensible to the public; to make all payments and revenues subject to credible, independent audit, consistent with international standards; to have a credible, independent administration reconcile payments and revenues in a manner consistent with international standards; to engage civil society in the design, implementation, monitoring and review of the Extractive industries transparency initiative process; and to develop a public and financially sustainable workplan with measurable targets. Some least developed countries have set up multi-stakeholder committees and developed workplans, but only Guinea has published its revenues. No least developed country has yet published a report or held a review, as required by the Extractive industries transparency initiative.

22. With the support of international partners, Liberia has established a National Diamond Task Force and the Liberian Diamond Authority in order to regain full control of diamond extraction and trade, and has expressed interest in joining the Kimberley process. In April 2007, the Security Council recognized that Liberia met the minimum requirements for joining the Kimberley process and unanimously adopted a resolution in which it noted the progress made by Liberia and lifted the ban on diamond exports (see Security Council resolution 1743 (2007)).

23. As of November 2006, 10 least developed countries were participating in the Kimberley process and 2 least developed countries (Cape Verde and Mali) were in the process of accession to it. The latest triennial review of the process concluded that while a significant number of diamond-producing and trading centres were operating within the Kimberley process, illicit diamond extraction and trading by rebel factions and militias continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

24. Some least developed countries have also adopted fiscal policies and taken measures to cushion the impact of large windfall revenues on inflation and to prevent Dutch disease. Thus, Chad established the Future Generations Fund, a savings mechanism which by December 2005 had accumulated about $36 million. Timor-Leste established the Petroleum Fund to ensure transparency in the use of oil and gas revenues.

Commitment 3
Building human and institutional capacities

25. In 2005, the total population of the least developed countries reached 767 million people, up 12.9 per cent from 2000. The rapid population growth rate was driven by the highest fertility in the world. It is projected that at the current fertility rate the population of least developed countries could surpass 2.7 billion by 2050, and would still double, reaching as high as 1.7 billion, at a reduced fertility rate.

26. A large proportion of children and a very small proportion of older persons mean that least developed countries have the youngest populations in the world, with a median age of 19 years old. Among them, Mali, Niger and Uganda, have populations whose median age is at or below 16 years. It is estimated that by 2050, the median age will reach about 28 and children will account for 29 per cent of the total population, while older persons will account for 10 per cent of the population in least developed countries.

27. A high overall dependency ratio as a result of this population structure could increase extreme poverty, but could also provide a demographic window of opportunity for least developed countries by increasing the economic support ratio (the number of effective producers per effective consumer) and improve the standard of living. However, this scenario can work only if jobs are created for the additional workforce and Governments pursue reproductive policies aimed at reducing fertility (see E/CN.9/2007/3). Two thirds of least developed countries report that such policies are in place.[6]

28. Life expectancy at birth in least developed countries is increasing, but remains the lowest (51 years) in the world. Worse, in 10 African least developed countries, life expectancy is declining. High under-five mortality rates (45 per cent) among children and low mortality rates (16 per cent) among persons aged 65 and over suggest that the least developed countries are still in the early stage of the epidemiological transition when, due to improved hygiene, nutrition and treatment of diseases, child deaths are being shifted to older people. This largely explains low life expectancy in least developed countries. Extreme poverty, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and civil conflicts are also contributing factors.

29. As a result of better prevention and treatment policies, an increasing number of least developed countries (24 in 2005, as compared to 16 in 2004) has either met or is making substantial progress towards the goal of reducing the under-five mortality rate by 2015. Yet in the remaining least developed countries there has been minimal or no progress, and five least developed countries have strong negative trends. The number of countries with very high estimated infant mortality rates has also continued to fall, from 20 in 2004 to 18 in 2005. However, significant increases in infant mortality rates were reported in four least developed countries in 2005.

30. Estimates based on the latest available data show that only five least developed countries are close to achieving the target for reduction of maternal mortality by 2015. In the remaining 45 least developed countries, the maternal mortality ratios are currently too high for this target to be met. New estimates expected later in 2007

[6] *World Population Policies 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5).

are likely to confirm the general overall severity of the situation in the sub-Saharan African countries, where maternal mortality has been extraordinarily high.

31. Access to and completion of primary education play a crucial role in empowering poor people. Based on the revised data for the period 2002-2004, 27 least developed countries are on track or making rapid progress towards the goal of universal primary enrolment, up from 22, a figure based on earlier data covering fewer countries. The number of countries making slow progress has also declined from seven, based on earlier data, to six based on revised data for 2002-2004. However, for 16 of 17 other countries for which trend data is lacking, current general levels of development suggest that they will be unable to achieve the goal.

32. The Gender Parity Index, defined as the ratio of female to male enrolment rates, shows that in 2005, the ratio of female to male enrolment in primary education was 0.89 per cent, but in secondary and tertiary education it was 0.79 per cent and 0.63 per cent respectively. The Gender Parity Index in adult literacy was 0.72 per cent, suggesting that in 2005, fewer than three women for every four men in least developed countries were literate. Maldives is the only least developed country which has gender parity in adult literacy, while Lesotho has in fact surpassed the target, reporting more literate women than men in 2005.

33. Adult literacy in least developed countries as a whole has improved, but remains the lowest (53 per cent) in the world. It ranges from 19 per cent in Mali to 99 per cent in Samoa. In three out of four countries for which data is available, the rates are still below 70 per cent, and 13 least developed countries report that more than half of their adult population is illiterate. Six least developed countries have literacy rates below 30 per cent.

34. Most least developed countries have achieved or are on track to achieve the target on access to improved water supply in urban areas, but only 28 least developed countries have achieved or are on track to achieve this target in rural areas.

35. Twenty-eight least developed countries are on track to achieve the sanitation target in urban areas, up from 26 in 2002, but little progress is observed in the remaining least developed countries. Worse, the situation in rural areas appears to be deteriorating, as the number of least developed countries which were on track to the sanitation target dropped from 16 in 2002 to 10 in 2004.

36. Declines in HIV/AIDS incidence as a result of effective prevention measures were registered in 2005 in three fifths of least developed countries for which data is available. Rates above 4 per cent are estimated in seven least developed countries compared to 16 in 2003. Yet in seven African and two Asian least developed countries incidence of HIV is increasing.

37. Half of the 30 least developed countries which have trend data for 1990-2003 report a marked improvement in malaria prevalence, but another half report deterioration as well as an increase in malaria deaths. High prevalence occurs mainly in Southern and South-Eastern Asian least developed countries, and in African least developed countries, while most deaths occur in African least developed countries, notably among children. Extremely high numbers of deaths are found in 10 countries and high numbers of deaths in 9 countries.

38. Progress in the use of treated mosquito nets for prevention continues to lag, with only six least developed countries reporting 10 per cent or more children sleeping under treated mosquito nets and about half of least developed countries for which data is available reporting less than 5 per cent of children sleeping under treated mosquito nets. Treatment with anti-malarial drugs is much more widespread, with most least developed countries reporting their use by children with fever in the past two years.

39. Tuberculosis prevalence and death rates have declined substantially in some least developed countries, especially in high-burden countries.[7] Prevalence has declined to under 100 per 100,000 in four countries compared to 6 in 2003, and only six countries in 2005 have rates over 600 per 100,000 compared to 12 in 2003. However, progress from 1990 to 2003 has been difficult to sustain, as an increasing number of countries report relatively high levels of tuberculosis prevalence and death rates in 2003-2005. As HIV rates begin to decline, tuberculosis rates are also expected to fall, as their co-infection has been high.

40. Treatment of tuberculosis under the directly observed short course strategy continues to make good progress, with 17 least developed countries achieving the treatment target in 2004, and an additional 14 on track to achieve. However, case detection is lagging in least developed countries with fewer countries achieving or on track to the target in 2005 than was the case in 2003.

Commitment 4
Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries

41. Globalization has opened unprecedented opportunities for the movement of goods, services and people. Yet the 50 least developed countries have failed to reap its benefits, mainly due to the structural weaknesses of their economies and lack of capacities related to sustained growth and sustainable development, particularly productive capacities.[8] As a result, least developed countries have been further marginalized in the mainstream development process.

42. According to a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development study,[9] the production structure of least developed countries remains strongly oriented towards exploitation of natural resources without forward or backward linkages to the rest of the economy. While exports of manufactures are increasing, they are limited to the export of low-skilled, labour-intensive, low-technology and, hence, low value-added products, such as garments. Services, although expanding, are mostly in low value-added petty trade and commercial services.

43. Although the share of value-added activities in industry and services in the GDP has been increasing, agriculture remains the backbone of the economy in least developed countries. Some least developed countries have an abundance of land, while others have a shortage, and a significant proportion of the population of these countries survives on fragile lands, with serious constraints for intensive agriculture.

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[7] According to WHO, 22 high-burden countries represent 80 per cent of the global burden of tuberculosis.

[8] Productive capacities are defined by UNCTAD as "productive resources, entrepreneurial capabilities and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop". The Least Developed Countries Report 2006. UNCTAD/LDC/2006, Sales No. E.06.II.D.9.

[9] Ibid.

Nonetheless, a common feature of many least developed countries is severe underutilization of land resources and extremely low land productivity due to insufficient investment in agriculture, particularly in irrigation, as well as low modern inputs, particularly fertilizers, and unequal access to land, even in the land-abundant least developed countries.

44. Inadequate infrastructure is a major barrier to development of the productive capacities of least developed countries. The latest available data on roads show increases over the period from 1999 to 2003 in the number of least developed countries with 15 per cent or more of roads paved (23 countries compared to 15), but little or no change is observed in the overall length of roads since 1990. Fourteen least developed countries show increases greater than 20 per cent, but in most (24 of 38 with data), the increase has been less than 20 per cent, or negative since 1990. Railway lengths are low in most least developed countries and only seven have lengths over 1,000 kilometres. Moreover, existing railways are underused: only five least developed countries registered freight over 400 thousand km-tons. According to the latest data, for the period from 1990 to 2004, which covers 33 least developed countries, the number of countries with an increase of more than 2 per cent in aircraft departures was seven, while in the remaining 26 least developed countries, there were increases of 2 per cent or less, or declines. Significant transport of air freight (10 million ton-kms or more) is reported in only eight least developed countries out of 31 least developed countries for which data is available.

45. Only 14 per cent of African and 21 per cent of Asian least developed countries population has access to electricity. Although electric power consumption per capita in least developed countries has increased steadily since 2000 and reached 112 kWh per capita in 2003, an abysmal gap remains between least developed countries and the rest of the world, where the consumption was 2,510 kWh per capita. Energy use in least developed countries has also been increasing since 2000, reaching 306 kg of oil equivalent per capita in 2003. However, this level is far lower than that of the rest of the world (1,734 kg of oil equivalent per capita) during the same period. Charcoal and firewood remain the main energy sources for least developed countries.

46. In 2005, only three least developed countries met the target of five telephone lines per 100 population and two more were on track to meet it by 2010. These were mainly small island least developed countries which achieved high tele-density as a result of liberalization of the telecommunication sector and attraction of foreign investments in facilities upgrades and network expansion, in response to increased tourist demand. However, the number of least developed countries with more than two lines per 100 people, a minimal level of service, remained at 12 in 2005. With less than two main lines per 100, very few of the remaining 32 countries have any prospect of meeting the 2010 target.

47. Due to long waiting periods, the number of fixed telephones grew slowly, albeit steadily in least developed countries (two additional lines per 100 inhabitants annually), while the number of cellular subscribers in least developed countries has increased by a factor almost 21 since 2000. Twenty-eight least developed countries had reached five main lines and cellular subscribers combined per one hundred population in 2005, compared to eighteen countries in 2003-2004. Ongoing expansion is strong but short of the target in 13 least developed countries and minimal in 3 least developed countries.

48. Mobile phones overtook fixed phones in least developed countries due to their easy availability, especially in rural areas, the introduction of prepaid cards, short message services and the reduction of phone call charges as a result of competition. According to the International Telecommunication Union, competition in cellular, Internet access and Very Small Aperture Terminal was authorized in 80 per cent of least developed countries. By comparison, competition in basic services was authorized in just over 40 per cent of least developed countries. The most expensive charges for cellular mobile phone calls were registered in Myanmar and Uganda.

49. The number of Internet users per 100 population has grown considerably since 2000, but there appears to be no significant or at least measurable change from 2004 to 2005 in most least developed countries. In fact, in 2005, more than half of least developed countries had Internet penetration below one per 100.

Commitment 5
Enhancing the role of trade in development

50. The share of least developed countries in world exports, in value terms, increased from 0.68 per cent in 2004 to 0.79 per cent in 2005, but this increase was entirely due to oil exports. If oil exports are not counted, the share of least developed countries exports in world merchandise exports in 2005 remained at exactly the same level (0.36 per cent) as in 2004. Exports from least developed countries grew much faster (36 per cent) than those of the rest of the world (14 per cent) in 2005, and faster than their own imports (21 per cent), but there was significant variance from country to country. Thus, exports of five oil exporters (Angola, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sudan and Yemen) continued to grow rapidly, reaching 58 per cent in 2005. Exports of manufacturing least developed countries also grew rapidly, but stalled at 17 per cent, a figure reached in 2004. Export growth of commodity producers slowed to 14 per cent, the lowest rate since 2002. Two least developed countries (Lesotho and Madagascar) among exporters of manufacturers and seven least developed countries among exporters of commodities (Burkina Faso, Comoros, the Gambia, Maldives, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo and Tuvalu) experienced negative export growth in 2005.

51. Apart from Bangladesh and Cambodia, least developed countries exports in clothing and textiles decreased 5 per cent annually from 2004 to 2006. The sharpest (14 per cent) drop in clothing and textile exports took place in 2005, the year when the quota regime under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textile and Clothing (ATC) was terminated. While some least developed countries began to show signs of recovery, there is a danger that others endowed with natural resources and lured by high commodity prices will lose interest in diversifying in textiles and clothing and eventually lose ground in that area.

52. As in 2004, 79 per cent of all imports from least developed countries, not counting arms and oil, were admitted duty-free to the markets of developed countries in 2005, an increase of only 1 per cent since 1996.

53. The utilization rate of the Generalized System of Preferences by least developed countries ranged widely (from 40 to 100 per cent), depending on the importing country and the sector, but was about 70 per cent on average, largely due to the supply side constraints of least developed countries.

56. In August 2006, 42 least developed countries were at different stages of the integrated framework, aimed at assisting least developed countries in mainstreaming trade in their national development strategies and poverty reduction strategy papers. Twenty had validated their Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies and identified their priorities, 11 had started the Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies Process, 6 held technical reviews and 5 submitted their requests for inclusion in the programme.

57. A more effective, enhanced integrated framework[10] will begin at the end of 2007. The estimated funding for the enhanced integrated framework is US$ 400 million (approximately US$ 8 million per country over five years), including US$ 77 million for tier I (core function support costs) and US$ 320 million for tier II (action matrix implementation support costs). This represents a tenfold increase in financial resources to the integrated framework. Although there have been no formal pledges to the enhanced integrated framework, the integrated framework saw an increase in pledges at the end of 2006 from some $35 million to almost $52 million, while cumulative contributions rose from approximately $34 million to approximately $49.5 million.

Commitment 6
Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

58. With almost 72 per cent of population living in rural areas and dependent on income from agriculture, least developed countries are highly susceptible to land degradation, drought, desertification, deforestation, water and air pollution and climate change.

59. Thus, 36 out of 41 least developed countries for which data is available suffer from moderate (5-10 per cent) to very severe (50-100 per cent) human-induced land degradation. The severest (over 70 per cent) land degradation is in Burundi and Rwanda, countries with high population densities. Ten out of 30 of the world's lowest-ranked countries according to land resource potential and constraints are least developed countries. In seven of them, deserts and dry lands occupy more than 95 per cent of total land, which suggests the existence of severe desertification problems.[11] Recurrent droughts further exacerbate these problems by reducing agricultural production and causing food shortages and migration of population.

60. Under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Severe Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention were required to prepare National Action Programmes and mainstream sustainable land management in their poverty reduction and national development strategies. The same Convention also established the global mechanism designed to increase financial resources to affected developing countries. As of January 2007, 38 least developed countries had ratified and another 12 least developed countries had acceded to the Convention. Twenty-nine least developed countries have adopted their National Action Programmes and 18 least developed countries received assistance from the

[10] Key elements of the enhanced integrated framework include: (a) increased, additional, predictable financial resources to implement Action Matrices; (b) strengthened in-country capacities to manage, implement and monitor the integrated framework process and (c) enhanced integrated framework governance.

[11] *World Soil Resources Report: Land Resource Potential and Constraints at Regional and Country Levels* (FAO, Rome, 2000) (see ftp://ftp.fao.org/agl/agll/docs/wsr.pdf).

Global Mechanism in mainstreaming National Action Programmes in poverty reduction and national development strategies.

61. Although least developed countries are the countries which are least responsible for global warming, they are hardest hit by climate change, especially small island States and those in Africa. Recent studies[12] provide compelling evidence that Africa, due to its multiple stresses and low adaptive capacity, is the continent most vulnerable to global warming. Impacts of climate change in Africa include increased water stress, reduced agricultural production, disrupted food supplies and increased malnutrition. The studies also confirm that climate change can affect the local resources of small islands, such as fishery resources, reduce their value as destinations for tourism, cause the deterioration of coastal conditions, lead to coral bleaching, threaten vital infrastructure and reduce fresh water resources, inter alia.

62. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requires that all Parties adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change. Recognizing the high vulnerability and special needs of least developed countries in adapting to climate change, the same Convention established the Least Developed Countries Fund to provide technical and financial support for the preparation of their National Adaptation Programmes of Action. As of August 2006, 14 least developed countries had completed their National Adaptation Programmes of Action and the remaining least developed countries were expected to complete them in 2007-2008. The Fund has provided financial support to 44 National Adaptation Programmes of Action and two global projects worth $11.6 million. Four remaining least developed countries (Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar and Nepal) eligible for National Adaptation Programmes of Action support had yet to submit their proposals for funding and one least developed country had not yet provided information about National Adaptation Programmes of Action preparation. As of 28 April 2006 total available resources of the Fund, including new contributions and pledges, had reached $89.9 million. Additional pledges have since been made by France and Italy.

Commitment 7
Mobilizing financial resources

63. Despite recent pledges, donors are falling behind the target of 0.20 per cent of gross national income/official development assistance by 2010. In 2005, only 6 out of 22 donors met the 0.20 per cent target, down from 7 in 2004, and an additional 1 donor was on track to meet it in 2010, down from 3 in 2004. The remaining 15 donors were far from achieving the target, including 7 with declining or unchanged gross national income/official development assistance. Total net flows of official development assistance to least developed countries continued to increase by 6-9 per cent per year, in line with the goal, but the share of aid to least developed countries in total official development assistance remained unchanged (24 per cent) from 1994-1995 and dropped by 6 percentage points from 2004.

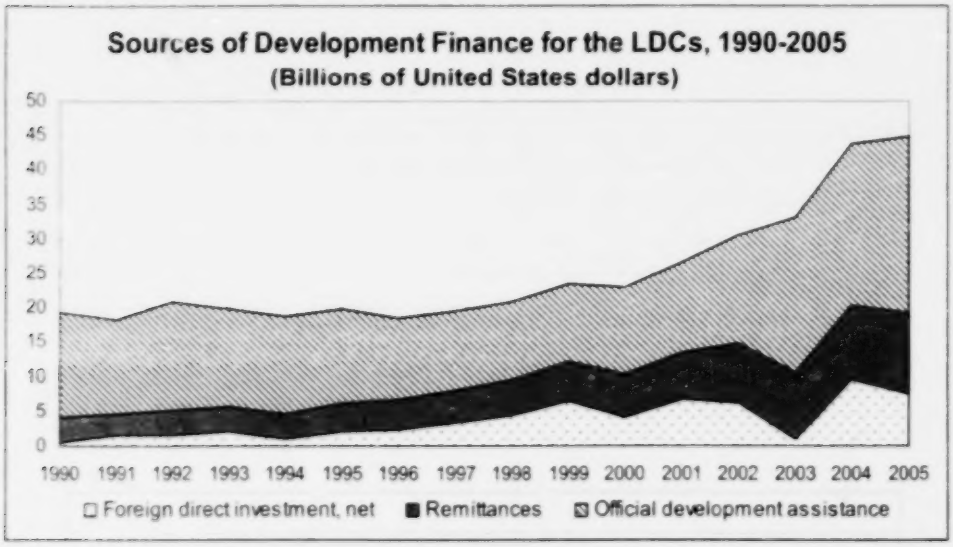
64. Almost all Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee official development assistance to least

[12] See fourth assessment report on global warming prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; a report entitled "Stern review: the economics of climate change"; and a report on an African regional workshop on adaptation held in Accra from 21 to 23 September 2006.

developed countries was provided in grant form. Furthermore, aid has been untied beyond the coverage of the 2001 Development Assistance Committee recommendation, which excludes food aid and technical cooperation. In addition, the Development Assistance Committee has also abolished the thresholds below which the official development assistance can be untied, encouraging local and regional procurement of goods and services in least developed countries.

65. Donor support for trade relations capacity-building in least developed countries fell by 59 per cent from 2004, even as trade relations capacity-building support from official development assistance to developing countries increased by 12 per cent. From 2004 to 2005, the increase in total trade relations capacity-building was 4 per cent, but the increase to least developed countries was only one half of 1 per cent.

66. Aid allocation by donors was characterized by selectivity and high concentration. Thus, 9 least developed countries accounted for 43.7 per cent of donors aid in 2005. In 14 least developed countries, official development assistance was a significant part of gross national income in 2005. These were largely small island least developed countries with few natural resources, and least developed countries emerging from conflicts, burdened by heavy debt. High (over 20 per cent of gross national income) aid dependency not only makes these countries extremely vulnerable in their development, but also reduces the responsibility of Governments for tax collection and reduces Government accountability to citizens.



67. Delivery of heavily indebted poor countries initiative commitments by the World Bank increased in 2006, from $1.29 billion early in the year to $2.80 billion by August, reaching 42 per cent of commitments in terms of net present value. International Monetary Fund delivery, already at 81 per cent in early 2006, increased to 83 per cent, or $1.22 billion. As a result of debt relief measures, debt service as a percentage of exports has decreased significantly since 1990. Thirty

least developed countries in 2005, compared to 27 in 2004 and only 14 in 1990, had a ratio of debt to exports below 10 per cent. Further, only 2 countries in 2005, compared to 6 in 1990, had debt ratios over 20 per cent.

68. The sharp increase in foreign direct investment in least developed countries observed in 2004 was sustained in 2005 in only a few countries. In 2005, foreign direct investment exceeded 5 per cent of gross domestic product in 11 least developed countries, down from 12 in 2004, and was less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product or negative in 18 countries. In an upward trend since 1990, 15 least developed countries hosted foreign direct investment inflows in the range of 1-4.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 2005.

69. Migrant remittances[13] to least developed countries reached $11.4 billion in 2005, due entirely to an increase of remittance inflows to Bangladesh. If Bangladesh is not considered, net inflows of remittances to least developed countries remained at exactly the same level ($10.4 billion) as in 2004. It is noteworthy that South-South remittances exceed North-South remittances to least developed countries, despite high transaction and high foreign exchange commissions at both ends. Income differences, proximity and community ties (ethnic, linguistic, religious, family) with neighbouring developing countries are major determinants of South-South migration which drives remittances in the Bangladesh-India migration corridor, the second largest in the world, as well as remittances from South Africa to Lesotho and Mozambique, from Saudi Arabia to Yemen and Sudan and from India to Nepal. However, higher income difference encourages migration to the North, with such migration resulting in tenfold income increases. The United States of America remains the largest single source of North-South remittances to least developed countries. Significant North-South remittance inflows to least developed countries also originated in the euro area, mainly due to the euro-dollar exchange.[14]

70. In June 2005, at the South-South Summit, Qatar launched the South fund for development and pledged $20 million to this new financing facility. Though not a donor country, it committed itself to achieving the 0.7 per cent gross national income/official development assistance target to developing countries and the 0.15-0.20 per cent target gross national income/official development assistance to least developed countries by 2006.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

71. Economic performance of least developed countries continued to improve, and fewer countries, mainly Pacific islands, were lagging behind. Social indicators are also improving, but overall socio-economic progress in African least developed countries has been significantly compromised by continuing population growth due to the highest fertility in the world. International support for health is paying dividends in African least developed countries, but malnutrition appears to be worsening, particularly in rural areas, where agriculture can hardly keep up with rapid population growth, environmental degradation and the challenges associated

[13] Migrant remittances are defined as the sum of workers remittances, compensation of employees, and migrants' transfers as recorded in the International Monetary Fund balance of payments.

[14] It is estimated that the appreciation of the euro from US$ 0.89 per euro in 2001 to US$ 1.19 per euro in end-2005 accounted for US$ 5.7 billion or 7 per cent of remittances received by all developing countries in 2001-2005.

with climate change. As a result, African least developed countries increasingly face the danger of food shortages, disruption of food supplies and famine.

72. **Achieving the objectives of the Programme of Action requires greater donor focus on enhancing the productive capacity of least developed countries, in particular in agriculture. Donors also need to increase allocation of aid to physical infrastructure and technological development, as a means of increasing productivity and competitiveness of least developed countries. Above all, donors need to make significant efforts to increase their aid volumes in order to achieve the internationally agreed goal of 0.15-0.20 per cent of their gross national income as official development assistance to least developed countries by 2010 and improve aid effectiveness (ownership, harmonization, alignment, results and mutual accountability), as agreed in Rome and in Paris.**

73. **Developed countries must adhere fully to their commitment of providing duty-free and quota-free market access to all products from least developed countries and trade-related technical assistance, including through Aid for trade and the enhanced integrated framework, aimed at addressing supply-side constraints of least developed countries and mainstreaming trade in their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. Improving the effectiveness of preferential market access requires improvement of the coverage and predictability of preference schemes and liberalization (simplification, harmonization and relaxation) of rules of origin. Granting the most generous and non-discriminatory treatment to all least developed countries on a lasting and unconditional basis could further boost the utilization of non-reciprocal preference schemes of developed countries. Developing countries could consider (a) granting non-reciprocal preferences to least developed countries and (b) reducing tariffs on all non-agricultural products from least developed countries.**

74. **For their part, least developed countries should strengthen their country ownership by promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with civil society and the private sector and on effective domestic resource mobilization and aid management, enhanced transparency and accountability, coordination and coherence and outcome-driven implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Brussels Programme at the country level. As they embark, with United Nations Development Programme support, on the preparation of the second generation of poverty reduction strategy papers, the Millennium Development Goals-based national development strategies and new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks also need to establish synergies at the country level between the Millennium Development Goals, the Brussels Programme and regional initiatives like the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to ensure their complementarity and mutual reinforcement.**

75. **Fighting corruption should become an integral part of the fight against poverty in least developed countries. To be effective, the anti-corruption strategies need to be country-driven and must be viewed in the broader context of good governance. Simplification of procedures, transparency and accountability of decision-making, engaging civil society and a third honest party (domestic or international) which monitors or enforces the law can also**

improve a national system of checks and balances, prevent corruption, improve the delivery of public services and attract investments.

76. Pro-poor policies of least developed countries need to include policies aimed at increasing agriculture and labour productivity. To this end, least developed countries should pursue favourable economic, trade and investment policies and ensure the access of the poor, particularly women, to credit, land and markets. Creating this level playing field is important for promoting competition among suppliers of essential inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, and creating incentives for private entrepreneurs to invest in agribusiness and for farmers to adopt new and sustainable technology and diversify into higher-value crops which will raise their incomes and help them escape poverty. Elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and transfer of appropriate agricultural technology and practices by developed countries should complement the efforts of least developed countries.

77. Pro-poor policies of least developed countries should also include sustainable development (construction, rehabilitation and maintenance) of transport infrastructure (rural, national and cross-border). Closing the physical infrastructure divide in least developed countries requires a comprehensive approach to infrastructure development and increased public investments in (a) rural infrastructure, which is important for increasing agricultural productivity and fostering rural growth linkages between agricultural and non-agricultural activities; (b) national transport infrastructure, critical for growth of the formal economy, diversification, structural change and integration into world trade; and (c) cross-border infrastructure, important for regional integration.

78. Improving access to electricity in least developed countries requires overcoming multiple challenges in generation, transmission and distribution at the national level by creating an enabling environment, adopting an effective policy and regulatory framework, improving management capacity and creating financially healthy utilities. It also requires focusing on cost-effective regional supply projects (hydro, coal and gas) and regional integration to promote energy trade. In addition, immediate energy generation solutions and pain relief to mitigate high energy costs must be provided to the most affected least developed countries. Scaling up electricity access in the least developed countries also requires development of a broader multi-year strategy of grid expansion as well as syndicated financing to ensure sustainable and predictable adequate support to the energy sector.

79. Bridging the digital divide between least developed countries and the rest of the world requires that policymakers, regulators, telephone operators and service providers adapt to the new challenges and opportunities offered by information and communications technology. Pricing is a critical factor in narrowing the digital gap. New technology, privatization and competition can reduce price, but they need an effective, transparent and predictable regulatory framework that would create a favourable investment climate, promote market opportunities and facilitate the realization of the full benefits of information and communications technology in the interest of the poor. To involve the private sector in deployment of information and communications technology in remote, rural areas sufficient incentives such as tax breaks, waivers of customs

duties on information and communications technology equipment, easy access to universal service funds, etc., are required.

80. Attracting more foreign direct investment to least developed countries requires (a) further improvement of their business and investment climate and public administration, (b) mitigation of their non-commercial risks, (c) entry of least developed countries into aid-supported regional and subregional currency arrangements, (d) adoption of targeted investment promotion strategies, and (e) basic necessary infrastructure. Identifying new niches beyond traditional areas (oil, gas and minerals) and former colonial markets (e.g., tourism, information and communications technology-based industries and services, etc.) is also an important element of successful foreign investment strategy for least developed countries.

81. South-South cooperation holds great potential for poverty reduction in least developed countries and should be further nurtured. Experience shows that cooperation between countries with similar conditions (environment, culture, economy) often results in the transfer of more appropriate technology. When the cooperation takes place between neighbouring countries, operating (personnel, transportation, etc.) costs are significantly reduced. South-South aid assistance expands aid uses and increases overall aid resources. As is the case with North-South investments, South-South investments can increase productivity and tax revenues. However, South-South cooperation should be viewed not as an alternative but rather as a valuable complement to North-South cooperation.

Annex

Statistical tables

Annex table 1
Economic growth and fixed capital formation

Least developed countries	GDP average annual growth in constant US dollars, per cent			Per capita GDP in constant US dollars		Per capita GDP in current US dollars	Gross fixed formation percentage perc. GDP	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, as perc of GDP			Total population (000s)	Population growth, per cent per year
	1990-95	1995-00	2000-05	1990	2005	2005	2004/2005	1990	2004	2005	2005	2000-2005
Africa												
Angola [a]	-4.20	6.11	6.83	977	1 004	1 309	12	-3.3	7.3	-4.0	16 095	2.89
Benin	4.01	5.31	3.89	356	430	500	20	3.4	2.7	0.5	8 490	3.22
Burkina Faso	4.93	5.23	4.59	335	458	348	19	0.0	0.3	0.4	13 933	3.19
Burundi	-2.12	-1.21	2.29	203	149	93	15	0.1	0.0	0.1	7 859	3.29
Cape Verde	5.21	8.36	4.07	867	1 462	1 947	28	0.1	2.2	5.5	507	2.35
Central African Republic	0.75	2.51	-1.15	432	361	330	6	0.0	-1.0	0.4	4 191	1.63
Chad [a]	4.26	2.46	11.82	254	396	426	38	0.5	11.1	12.9	10 146	3.62
Comoros	-0.55	0.04	1.70	475	341	427	21	0.2	0.0	0.3	798	2.65
Democratic Republic of the Con	-7.25	-3.91	2.74	248	108	115	19	0.2	10.2	5.7	58 741	2.95
Djibouti	2.07	0.40	2.42	819	747	852	16	..	5.8	3.2	804	1.94
Equatorial Guinea [a]	6.30	34.20	20.16	462	4 899	7 845	64	8.4	51.4	57.6	484	2.34
Eritrea	..	0.84	2.88	..	342	187	22	..	-1.2	1.2	4 527	4.12
Ethiopia	2.18	5.32	3.24	159	182	106	22	0.1	5.6	2.4	78 986	2.59
Gambia	2.51	5.54	3.18	356	391	281	19	4.5	14.2	11.3	1 617	3.11
Guinea	3.74	4.26	2.35	453	509	421	11	0.6	2.4	3.1	9 003	1.86
Guinea-Bissau	3.95	-1.45	-1.12	230	162	176	13	0.8	0.6	3.3	1 597	3.06
Lesotho	3.98	2.86	2.59	388	547	764	44	2.8	9.0	6.3	1 981	0.99
Liberia	-22.50	34.53	-1.78	180	134	146	10	58.6	41.6	35.4	3 442	2.28
Madagascar	-0.33	3.85	1.46	256	217	222	19	0.7	0.4	0.6	18 643	2.83
Malawi	5.32	2.39	1.35	185	217	165	7	1.2	0.0	0.1	13 226	2.58
Mali	3.80	4.11	5.30	282	365	377	18	0.2	2.1	3.0	11 611	2.98
Mauritania	4.84	4.35	3.41	503	635	416	14	0.7	0.3	6.2	2 963	2.88
Mozambique	1.92	7.92	7.54	202	323	328	15	0.4	4.1	1.6	20 533	2.42
Niger	1.53	2.78	3.23	296	269	199	15	1.6	0.9	0.4	13 264	3.52
Rwanda	-8.49	10.17	4.05	358	363	205	18	0.3	0.4	0.4	9 234	2.43
Sao Tome and Principe	1.44	2.10	3.80	493	540	447	52	..	-2.5	9.9	153	1.71
Senegal	1.41	5.38	3.78	714	840	672	23	1.0	1.0	0.7	11 770	2.60
Sierra Leone	-5.39	-3.73	4.97	159	97	196	17	5.0	5.7	4.9	5 586	4.23
Somalia	-7.20	1.73	2.41	149	105	262	20	0.6	..	..	8 196	3.00
Sudan [a]	4.77	1.64	5.21	626	811	562	32	-0.2	7.0	8.4	36 900	2.02
Togo	1.19	1.61	2.04	396	333	348	20	1.1	2.8	0.1	6 239	2.88
Uganda	7.45	6.45	4.63	206	322	280	22	-0.1	3.3	2.9	28 947	3.18
United Republic of Tanzania	3.99	7.23	5.34	144	224	297	18	0.0	4.2	3.9	38 478	2.56
Zambia	-2.03	2.72	3.19	487	429	463	25	6.2	4.4	3.6	11 478	1.88

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Economic growth and fixed capital formation

Least developed countries	GDP average annual growth in constant US dollars, per cent			Per capita GDP in constant US dollars		Per capita GDP in current US dollars	Gross fixed formation percentage perc. GDP	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, as perc of GDP			Total population (000s)	Population growth, per cent per year
	1990-95	1995-00	2000-05	1990	2005	2005	2004/2005	1990	2004	2005	2005	2000-2005
Asia and Pacific												
Afghanistan	-6.44	-8.92	7.70	299	99	184	22	..	..	..	25 067	3.79
Bangladesh	4.49	5.34	4.20	306	454	443	24	0.0	0.8	1.3	153 281	1.89
Bhutan	5.57	6.45	5.46	173	315	368	46	0.5	0.1	0.1	637	2.63
Cambodia	6.45	5.09	4.11	174	264	316	22	..	2.5	6.1	13 956	1.76
Kiribati	4.09	5.64	1.43	396	504	815	8	..	..	..	92	1.81
Lao People's Democratic Repu	6.41	6.17	4.55	186	305	419	25	0.7	0.7	1.0	5 664	1.62
Maldives	6.68	8.34	5.51	1 000	1 810	2 345	36	2.6	1.9	1.2	295	1.57
Myanmar	5.84	8.28	4.87	127	260	219	11	..	..	..	47 967	0.89
Nepal	5.19	4.82	1.96	184	238	245	19	0.2	0.0	0.0	27 094	2.08
Samoa	0.08	3.92	..	1 247	1 541	1 968	40	5.9	0.6	-0.9	184	0.70
Solomon Islands	7.68	-2.38	-0.70	657	553	585	19	4.9	0.4	-0.3	472	2.57
Timor-Leste	1.12	-4.57	2.98	244	197	370	27	..	..	..	1 067	5.31
Tuvalu	3.04	1.90	4.38	1 012	1 451	2 141	56	..	..	..	10	0.50
Vanuatu	4.54	1.29	-0.25	1 023	969	1 405	29	8.7	6.3	3.9	215	2.54
Yemen [a]	4.85	5.86	3.17	335	393	643	14	-2.7	1.1	-1.8	21 096	2.97
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	-4.05	2.06	-1.27	381	263	471	13	0.3	0.2	0.2	9 296	1.62

Sources: Gross domestic product growth and per capita, United Nations Statistics Division, *National Accounts Main Aggregates Database*, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snama/dnllist.asp, with additional calculations prepared by the Statistics Division; foreign direct investment, World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007*, table 6.1 (Washington, D.C.); population, United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects—The 2006 Revision*, print and CD-ROM (document ESA/P/WP.202).

a Refers to an oil-exporting country.

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Annex table 2

Poverty and hunger

Least developed countries	Per capita consumption less than $1 (PPP) per day, percentage of population		Proportion of population which is undernourished			Percentage difference in proportion of population undernourished		Life expectancy at birth, years		Change in life expectancy at birth (years)
	1990-1996	1997-2004	1990-1992	2000-2003	2002-2004	1990-1992 to 2000-2003	1990-1992 to 2002-2004	1990/1995	2000/2005	1990-2005
Africa										
Angola	..	..	58	38	35	-20	-23	39.8	40.7	0.9
Benin	..	31.0	20	14	12	-6	-8	53.5	53.8	0.3
Burkina Faso	63.0	27.0	21	17	15	-4	-6	46.8	47.4	0.6
Burundi	45.0	55.0	48	67	66	19	18	42.4	43.5	1.1
Cape Verde	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66.4	70.2	3.8
Central African Republic	67.0	..	50	45	44	-5	-6	46.7	39.4	-7.3
Chad	..	..	58	33	35	-25	-23	46.2	43.6	-2.6
Comoros	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57.9	63.0	5.1
Congo, Democratic Republic	..	..	32	72	74	40	42	44.7	43.1	-1.6
Djibouti	..	..	53	26	24	-27	-29	51.2	52.7	1.5
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45.9	43.5	-2.4
Eritrea	..	..	..	73	75	..	..	49.4	53.5	4.1
Ethiopia	31.0	23.0	..	46	46	..	..	47.2	47.6	0.4
Gambia	54.0	59.0	22	27	29	5	7	51.4	55.5	4.1
Guinea	..	..	39	24	24	-15	-15	48.7	53.6	4.9
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	24	37	39	13	15	43.0	44.6	1.6
Lesotho	39.5	..	17	12	13	-5	-4	58.3	36.7	-21.6
Liberia	..	..	35	49	50	14	15	40.5	42.5	2.0
Madagascar	46.0	61.0	35	38	38	-27	3	52.0	55.3	3.3
Malawi	..	42.0	50	34	35	-16	-15	45.2	39.6	-5.6
Mali	72.0	..	29	28	29	-1	0	46.7	47.8	1.1
Mauritania	39.0	26.0	15	10	10	-5	-5	49.4	52.5	3.1
Mozambique	38.0	..	66	45	44	-21	-22	43.6	41.9	-1.7
Niger	51.5	..	41	32	32	-9	-9	40.6	44.3	3.7
Rwanda	..	52.0	44	36	33	-8	-11	23.6	43.6	20.0
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	18	12	10	-6	-8	62.0	62.9	0.9
Senegal	33.5	..	23	23	20	0	-3	54.1	55.6	1.5
Sierra Leone	..	..	47	50	51	3	4	38.4	40.6	2.2
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39.7	46.2	6.5
Sudan	..	..	32	27	26	-5	-6	53.4	56.3	2.9
Togo	..	..	33	25	24	-8	-9	57.7	54.2	-3.5
Uganda	86.0	85.0	24	19	19	-5	-5	43.6	46.8	3.2
United Republic of Tanzania	49.0	58.0	37	44	44	7	7	52.4	46.0	-6.4
Zambia	70.7	76.0	48	47	46	-1	-2	43.4	37.4	-6.0

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Poverty and hunger

Least developed countries	Per capita consumption less than $1 (PPP) per day, percentage of population		Proportion of population which is undernourished			Percentage difference in proportion of population undernourished		Life expectancy at birth, years		Change in life expectancy at birth (years)
	1990-1996	1997-2004	1990-1992	2000-2003	2002-2004	1990-1992 to 2000-2003	1990-1992 to 2002-2004	1990/1995	2000/2005	1990-2005
Asia and Pacific										
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45.5	46.0	0.5
Bangladesh	30.7	36.0	35	30	30	-5	-5	56.3	62.6	6.3
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55.9	62.7	6.8
Cambodia	..	55.0	43	33	33	-10	-10	55.0	56.0	1.0
Kiribati	..	..	9	6	7	-3	-2	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republi	8.0	27.0	29	21	19	-8	10	50.8	54.5	3.7
Maldives	..	..	17	11	10	-6	-7	61.0	66.3	5.3
Myanmar	..	..	10	5	5	-5	-5	56.7	60.1	3.4
Nepal	39.0	..	20	17	17	-3	-3	55.9	61.4	5.5
Samoa	..	..	11	4	4	-7	-7	66.0	70.0	4.0
Solomon Islands	..	..	33	20	21	-13	-12	60.9	62.2	1.3
Timor-Leste	..	..	11	8	9	-3	-2	47.8	55.1	7.3
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	12	12	11	0	..	65.1	68.4	3.3
Yemen	4.0	16.0	34	37	38	3	4	55.7	60.3	4.6
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	..	54.0	65	47	46	-18	-19	48.2	51.5	3.3

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007*, table 2.6 (Washington, D.C.), with additional data to 16 April 2007 calculated by the Data Development Division from the World Bank's Povcal Net, http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/jsp/index.jsp; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2006, Eradicating world hunger—taking stock ten years after the World Food Summit (Rome, 2006)*, with updates from *FAOSTAT* database, *Food Security Statistics*, http://www.fao.org/foodsecurity/index_en.htm, accessed 1 March 2007, and United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects—The 2006 Revision, print and CD-ROM (document ESA/P/WP.202).

Annex table 3
Reproductive health and health services

Least developed countries	Births attended by skilled health personnel, perc. 1997/2005	Women reporting at least one antenatal visit to a skilled practitioner, perc. 1997/2005	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000) 2000	Contraceptive use among currently married women aged 15-49, any method, perc. 1990/1995	1997/2005
Africa					
Angola	45	66	1 700	8	6
Benin	66	81	850	16	19
Burkina Faso	38	73	1 000	8	14
Burundi	25	78	1 000	..	16
Cape Verde	89	99	150	..	53
Central African Republic	44	62	1 100	15	28
Chad	14	39	1 100	..	3
Comoros	62	74	480	21	26
Congo, Democratic Republic	61	68	990	8	31
Djibouti	61	67	730	..	9
Equatorial Guinea	65	86	880	..	..
Eritrea	28	70	630	5	8
Ethiopia	6	27	850	4	8
Gambia	55	91	540	12	18
Guinea	56	82	740	2	7
Guinea-Bissau	35	62	1 100	..	8
Lesotho	55	90	550	23	37
Liberia	51	85	760	..	10
Madagascar	51	80	550	17	27
Malawi	56	92	1 800	13	33
Mali	41	57	1 200	..	8
Mauritania	57	64	1 000	3	8
Mozambique	48	85	1 000	..	17
Niger	14	41	1 600	4	14
Rwanda	39	94	1 400	21	17
Sao Tome and Principe	76	91	100 [a]	..	29
Senegal	58	79	690	7	12
Sierra Leone	42	68	2 000	..	4
Somalia	25	32	1 100	..	..
Sudan	87	60	590	10	7
Togo	61	85	570	..	26
Uganda	39	92	880	..	20
United Republic of Tanzania	43	78	1 500	10	26
Zambia	43	93	750	15	34
Asia and Pacific					
Afghanistan	14	16	1 900	..	10
Bangladesh	13	49	380	40	58
Bhutan	37	51	420	19	31
Cambodia	32	38	450	13	24
Kiribati	85	88	56 [a]	..	88
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	27	650	19	27
Maldives	70	81	110	..	39
Myanmar	57	76	360	17	34
Nepal	15	28	740	23	38
Samoa	100	..	130	..	30
Solomon Islands	85	..	130	..	11
Timor-Leste	18	61	660	..	10
Tuvalu	100	..	-	..	32
Vanuatu	88	..	130	..	28
Yemen	27	41	570	7	23
Latin America and the Caribbean					
Haiti	24	79	680	..	28

Sources: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children, The Double Dividend of Gender Equality* (New York, 2007), table 8, and United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2005* (CD-ROM and wall chart).

[a] As reported by the country.

Annex table 4

Universal primary education and gender equality in education

A. Enrolment

Least developed countries	Enrolment ratio in primary education, net, per 100			Ratio of girls to boys enrolment ratios in primary education			Ratio of girls to boys enrolment ratios in secondary education		Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education		
	1990/91	2002/03	2004	1990/91	2002/03	2004	1990/91	2004	1990/91	2002/03	2004
Africa											
Angola	58	..	..	0.95	..	..	..	..	..	0.65	0.63
Benin	45	..	83	0.52	..	0.78	0.41	0.49	0.14	..	..
Burkina Faso	26	36	40	0.83	0.74	0.77	0.52	0.67	0.29	0.75	0.27
Burundi	53	57	57	0.85	0.84	0.89	0.58	0.75	0.36	0.34	0.36
Cape Verde	94	99	92	0.95	0.98	0.99	..	1.08	..	0.40	1.14
Central African Republic	54	..	..	0.66	..	..	0.40	..	0.15	1.09	..
Chad	37	61	57	0.45	..	0.68	0.20	0.32	..	..	..
Comoros	57	..	..	0.73	..	..	0.65	0.75	..	..	0.80
Congo, Democratic Republic	55	..	..	0.78	..	..	..	..	..	0.77	..
Djibouti	31	..	33	0.72	0.81	..	0.66	0.67	..	..	0.83
Equatorial Guinea	91	..	85	0.97	..	0.85	..	0.56	0.14	0.80	..
Eritrea	16	45	48	0.99	0.86	0.85	..	0.56	..	..	0.25
Ethiopia	23	47	56	0.75	0.81	0.94	0.75	0.64	0.22	0.15	0.33
Gambia	48	79	75	0.71	..	1.06	0.49	0.82	..	0.33	0.25
Guinea	26	65	64	0.51	0.79	0.84	0.33	0.45	..	..	0.20
Guinea-Bissau	38	..	..	0.56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	73	86	86	1.24	1.07	1.06	1.47	1.27	1.22	0.57	2.00
Liberia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.48	..
Madagascar	65	79	89	1.00	1.01	1.00	0.97	..	0.82	0.83	0.91
Malawi	50	..	95	0.92	..	1.05	0.46	0.82	0.33	0.41	0.55
Mali	20	44	46	0.61	0.78	0.85	0.51	0.59	0.16	..	0.44
Mauritania	35	68	74	0.74	0.99	0.99	0.46	0.82	0.16	0.27	0.29
Mozambique	45	55	71	0.76	0.91	0.90	0.57	0.69	..	0.47	0.47
Niger	24	38	39	0.58	0.69	0.71	0.43	0.64	..	..	0.33
Rwanda	67	87	73	0.99	1.04	1.04	0.76	0.92	..	0.46	0.67
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	98	..	..	1.00	..	1.00	..	..	..
Senegal	47	69	66	0.74	0.93	0.95	0.53	0.72	..	..	..
Sierra Leone	41	..	..	0.73	..	..	0.57	..	..	..	0.50
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	43	..	..	0.75	..	..	0.79	0.89	0.88	..	..
Togo	75	79	79	0.71	0.84	0.85	0.34	0.49	0.16	..	..
Uganda	53	..	..	0.82	..	..	0.56	0.79	0.39	0.52	0.63
United Republic of Tanzania	50	69	91	1.01	0.99	0.98	0.70	..	..	0.44	0.43
Zambia	79	68	80	0.97	0.99	1.00	0.67	0.79	..	..	..
Asia and Pacific											
Afghanistan	27	..	..	0.55	..	..	0.52	0.19	0.48	..	0.27
Bangladesh	71	84	94	0.87	1.05	1.03	0.52	1.04	0.20	0.50	0.47
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.82	..	..	..
Cambodia	67	93	98	0.83	0.95	0.96	0.43	0.67	..	0.45	0.45
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.13	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republ	63	85	84	0.85	0.93	0.94	0.62	0.72	..	..	0.62
Maldives	87	92	90	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.02	1.08	..	..	2.50
Myanmar	98	84	86	0.96	1.01	1.02	0.98	0.96	..	..	..
Nepal	..	..	79	..	..	0.87	0.44	0.82	0.32	0.34	0.38
Samoa	..	98	90	..	..	1.00	1.22	1.11	1.00	..	..
Solomon Islands	83	72	80	0.86	..	0.99	0.63	0.75	..	..	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	71	94	94	1.02	..	0.98	0.79	0.82	..	..	0.57
Yemen	52	72	75	0.38	0.70	0.73	0.21	0.45	..	..	0.35
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	22	..	..	1.05	..	..	0.96	..	..	..	..

Annex table 4

Universal primary education and gender equality in education

B. Adult literacy

Least developed countries	Adult literacy (aged 15+) Percentage literate 1990 Women	1990 Men	1990 Total	2000/2004 Women	2000/2004 Men	2000/2004 Total	Change in gender difference, perc. points 1990 to 2000/04 *	Change in adult literacy, perc. points 1990 to 2000/04 *
Africa								
Angola	...	...	...	53.8	82.1	66.8	..	..
Benin	15.5	38.1	26.4	23.0	48.0	35.0	2.4	8.6
Burkina Faso	...	...	...	15.0	29.0	22.0	..	..
Burundi	26.6	48.4	37.0	52.0	67.0	59.0	-6.8	22.0
Cape Verde	54.3	76.2	63.8	71.0	87.0	78.0	-5.9	14.2
Central African Republic	20.7	47.1	33.2	33.5	64.7	48.6	4.8	15.4
Chad	18.8	37.0	27.7	13.0	41.0	26.0	9.8	-1.7
Comoros	46.4	61.4	53.8	...	...	...	..	..
Congo, Democratic Republic of th	34.4	61.4	47.5	54.0	81.0	67.0	..	..
Djibouti	39.7	66.8	53.0	...	...	...	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	61.1	85.8	73.3	80.0	93.0	87.0	..	..
Eritrea	34.8	58.5	46.4	...	...	...	..	..
Ethiopia	19.8	37.3	28.6	38.0	52.0	45.0	-3.5	16.4
Gambia	19.7	31.7	25.6	...	...	...	..	..
Guinea	12.9	42.3	27.2	18.0	43.0	29.0	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Lesotho	89.5	65.4	78.0	90.3	73.7	81.4	7.5	3.4
Liberia	22.8	55.4	39.2	...	...	...	..	..
Madagascar	49.8	66.4	58.0	65.0	77.0	71.0	..	..
Malawi	36.2	68.8	51.8	54.0	75.0	64.0	-11.6	12.2
Mali	...	...	...	11.9	26.7	19.0	..	..
Mauritania	23.9	46.3	34.8	43.0	60.0	51.0	-5.4	16.2
Mozambique	18.4	49.3	33.5	...	...	...	..	..
Niger	5.1	18.0	11.4	15.0	43.0	29.0	15.1	17.6
Rwanda	44.0	62.9	53.3	60.0	71.0	65.0	-7.9	11.7
Sao Tome and Principe	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Senegal	18.6	38.2	28.4	29.0	51.0	39.0	2.4	10.6
Sierra Leone	...	...	...	24.0	47.0	35.0	..	..
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Sudan	32.0	60.0	45.8	52.0	71.0	61.0	-9.0	15.2
Togo	28.7	60.5	44.2	38.0	69.0	53.0	-0.8	8.8
Uganda	43.5	69.3	56.1	58.0	77.0	67.0	-6.8	10.9
United Republic of Tanzania	51.0	75.5	62.9	62.0	78.0	69.0	-8.5	6.1
Zambia	58.7	78.6	68.2	60.0	76.0	68.0	-3.9	-0.2
Asia and Pacific								
Afghanistan	...	...	...	13.0	43.0	28.0	..	..
Bangladesh	23.7	44.3	34.2	33.0	52.0	43.0	-1.6	8.8
Bhutan	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Cambodia	48.8	77.7	62.0	64.0	85.0	74.0	-7.9	12.0
Kiribati	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	42.8	70.3	56.5	61.0	77.0	69.0	-11.5	12.5
Maldives	94.6	95.0	94.8	96.0	96.0	96.0	-0.4	1.2
Myanmar	74.2	87.4	80.7	86.0	94.0	90.0	-5.2	9.3
Nepal	14.0	47.4	30.4	35.0	63.0	49.0	-5.4	18.6
Samoa	97.4	98.5	98.0	99.0	99.0	99.0	-1.1	1.0
Solomon Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Timor-Leste	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Tuvalu	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Vanuatu	...	...	...	...	...	74.0	..	..
Yemen	12.9	55.2	32.7	33.0	72.0	53.0	-3.3	20.3
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Haiti	36.9	42.6	39.7	...	...	...	..	..

Sources: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All, EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007—Strong Foundations, Early Childhood Care and Education* (Paris, 2007), tables 12 and 13. Data refer to the latest year available in the period 2000-2004.
Where primary data are not available, UNESCO relies on national and international estimates; gender ratios for 1990-1991 from United Nations Statistics Division, *Millennium Indicators Database*, indicator 9 (accessed 1 February 2006).

*A negative (-) sign indicates a decrease in gender difference; a positive (+) sign indicates an increase.

Annex table 5

Infant and child health

Least developed countries	Under-5 mortality rate			Infant mortality rate			Percentage of 1-year old children immunized, Measles		Percentage of 1-year old children immunized, DPT3		Percentage of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed		Prevalence of moderately or severely under- weight children under five	
	1990	2004	2005	1990	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	1996/2004	2005	1996/2004	2005
Africa														
Angola	260	260	260	154	154	154	84	45	59	47	23	11	21	31
Benin	185	152	150	111	90	89	64	85	83	93	11	38	31	23
Burkina Faso	210	192	191	113	97	96	78	84	88	96	23	19	40	38
Burundi	190	190	190	114	114	114	84	75	74	74	55	62	47	45
Cape Verde	60	36	35	45	27	26	72	65	75	73	..	57	..	..
Central African Republic	168	193	193	102	115	115	91	35	40	40	20	17	32	24
Chad	201	200	208	120	117	124	80	23	50	20	35	2	26	37
Comoros	120	70	71	88	52	53	57	80	76	80	12	21	46	25
Democratic Republic of the Congo	205	205	205	129	129	129	84	70	64	73	15	34	32	31
Djibouti	175	126	133	116	101	88	64	65	64	71	52	..	40	27
Equatorial Guinea	170	204	205	103	122	123	98	51	33	33	57	24	14	19
Eritrea	147	82	78	88	52	50	55	84	83	83	30	52	24	40
Ethiopia	204	166	164	131	110	109	60	59	80	69	24	49	23	38
Gambia	151	122	137	103	89	97	69	84	38	88	50	26	20	17
Guinea	240	155	150	145	101	98	36	59	69	69	..	27	18	26
Guinea-Bissau	253	203	200	153	126	124	59	80	80	80	36	37	48	25
Lesotho	101	82	132	81	61	102	61	85	78	83	1	36	40	20
Liberia	235	235	235	157	157	157	85	94	31	87	44	..	22	5
Madagascar	168	123	119	103	76	74	59	59	61	61	18	67	25	42
Malawi	221	175	125	131	110	79	54	82	89	93	56	53	13	22
Mali	250	219	218	140	121	120	70	85	76	85	..	25	19	33
Mauritania	133	125	..	85	78	78	78	61	70	71	15	20	18	32
Mozambique	235	152	175	158	104	100	40	77	72	72	84	30	27	24
Niger	320	259	256	191	152	150	56	83	62	89	62	1	45	40
Rwanda	173	203	203	103	118	118	97	89	89	95	80	90	13	23
Sao Tome and Principe	118	118	118	75	75	75	87	88	99	97	63	56	23	13
Senegal	148	137	136	90	78	77	77	74	87	84	24	34	17	17
Sierra Leone	302	283	282	175	165	165	75	67	61	64	40	4	23	27
Somalia	225	225	225	133	133	133	90	35	30	35	67	9	42	26
Sudan	120	91	90	74	63	62	71	60	55	59	19	16	38	41
Togo	152	140	139	88	78	78	77	70	71	82	37	18	25	25
Uganda	160	138	136	93	80	79	73	86	87	84	24	63	31	23
United Republic of Tanzania	161	126	122	102	78	76	64	91	95	90	..	41	39	22
Zambia	180	182	182	101	102	102	91	84	80	80	68	40	48	20
Asia and Pacific														
Afghanistan	260	257	257	168	165	165	80	64	66	76	25	..	33	39
Bangladesh	149	77	73	100	56	54	48	81	85	88	10	36	30	48
Bhutan	166	80	75	107	67	65	35	93	89	95	12	..	45	19
Cambodia	115	141	143	80	97	98	94	79	85	82	41	12	22	45
Kiribati	88	65	65	65	49	48	73	56	62	62	16	80	17	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	163	83	79	120	65	62	42	41	45	49	24	23	19	40
Maldives	111	46	42	79	35	33	58	97	96	98	65	10	21	30
Myanmar	130	106	105	91	76	75	73	72	82	73	31	15	46	7
Nepal	145	76	74	100	59	56	51	74	80	75	38	68	23	48
Samoa	50	30	29	40	25	24	75	57	68	64	9	..	26	..
Solomon Islands	38	56	29	31	34	24	78	72	80	80	2	65	28	..
Timor-Leste	177	80	61	133	64	52	25	48	57	55	..	31	..	46
Tuvalu	54	51	38	42	36	31	80	62	98	93	21	..	25	..
Vanuatu	62	40	38	48	32	31	74	70	49	66	4	50	27	..
Yemen	139	111	102	98	82	76	70	78	78	86	26	12	17	46
Latin America and the Caribbean														
Haiti	150	117	120	102	74	89	64	54	43	43	17	24	24	17

Source: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children, The Double Dividend of Gender Equality* (New York, 2007), tables 1-3.

Annex table 6
HIV/AIDS prevalence and prevention

Least developed countries	HIV prevalence rate: adults aged 15-49		Condom use at last high risk sex, 1998/2004		2005		Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	Percentage aged 15-24 years comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, 2005		AIDS orphans (one or both parents died from AIDS)		Orphans school attendance ratio to non-orphans
	2001	2005	Women	Men	Women	Men	1998/2004	Women	Men	2003	2005	1998/2005
Africa												
Angola	3.7	3.7	-	-	55	64	5	35	43	110	160	90
Benin	1.9	1.8	19	34	50.8	60	7	8.1	10.6	54	62	
Burkina Faso	4.2	2.0	54	67	-	-	15			200	120	108
Burundi	6.2	3.3	-	-	46	55	1	3.6	4	200	120	70
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	
Central African Republic	13.5	10.7	-	-	61	83	3		-	110	140	91
Chad	4.9	3.5	-	-	-	-	0		-	98	97	105
Comoros	-	<0.1	-	-	-	-	3		-	-	-	99
Congo, Democratic Republic	4.2	3.2	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	770	980	72
Djibouti	2.8	3.1	-	-	-	-		-	-	5	6	
Equatorial Guinea		3.2	-	-	-	-			-	-	5	95
Eritrea	2.8	2.4	-	-	-	-	8		-	39	36	83
Ethiopia	4.1	-	17	30	14.6	36	4	-	-	720	-	80
Gambia	1.2	2.4	-	-	-	-	1		-	2	4	85
Guinea	2.8	1.5	17	32	-	-	10	-	-	35	28	114
Guinea-Bissau		3.8	-	-	-	-	1		-	-	11	103
Lesotho	23.6	23.2	-	-	50	49	6		-	100	97	89
Liberia	5.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	-	
Madagascar	1.3	0.5	5	12	-	-	2	19	16	30	13	76
Malawi	14.3	14.1	52	58	53	46	5	23.5	36	500	550	93
Mali	1.9	1.7	14	30	-	-	4			75	94	104
Mauritania	0.5	0.7	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	2	7	-
Mozambique	12.1	16.1	29	53	-	-	5			470	570	80
Niger	1.1	1.1	7	30	-	-	0		-	24	46	
Rwanda	5.1	3.1	23	55	-	-	3			160	210	82
São Tomé and Príncipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		-	-	-	
Senegal	0.8	0.9	-	-	-	-	7		-	17	25	94
Sierra Leone	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	2		-	-	31	71
Somalia	-	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	7.9	13	-	23	80
Sudan	1.9	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96
Togo	4.3	3.2	22	41	-	-	6		-	54	55	96
Uganda	5.1	6.7	44	62	-	-	8			940	1000	95
United Republic of Tanzania	9	6.5	42	47	-	-	11			980	1100	82
Zambia	16.7	17.0	33	42	26.1	38	11	40.5	46.1	630	710	92
Asia and Pacific												
Afghanistan	-	<0.1	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Bangladesh	-	<0.1	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Bhutan	-	<0.1	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Cambodia	2.7	1.6	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	71
Kiribati	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Myanmar	1	1.3	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Nepal	0.4	0.5	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	5.5	3.8	19	30	-	-			28	-	-	87

Sources: UNAIDS, *2006 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, fifth global report* (Geneva, 2006); United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children, The Double Dividend of Gender Equality (New York, 2007)*, tables 4 and and 8, and United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 2006.XVIII.4).

Annex table 7

Malaria and tuberculosis prevalence, mortality, prevention and treatment

Least developed countries	Reported malaria cases per 1000 population *		Number of reported deaths from malaria *	Children under 5 years: Sleeping under treated net (%)	Children under 5 years: Perc. with fever receiving anti-malaria drugs	Estimated prevalence of tuberculosis per 100,000 population			Estimated tuberculosis deaths per 100,000 population			DOTS * Proportion of TB cases detected, p cent		Proportion of detected cases cured, per cent	
	1990	2000/2003	2000/2003	1999/2005	1999/2005	1990	###	###	1990	2003	2005	2003	2005	2002	2004
Africa															
Angola	26.1	106.9	11 344	2	63	453	272	333	59	25	36	102	68	74	68
Benin	20.0	122.0	670	7	60	171	144	144	21	15	14	50	42	80	83
Burkina Faso	55.7	114.9	4 417	2	50	285	315	461	46	45	59	12	11	64	67
Burundi	16.6	274.0	330	1	31	234	558	602	36	92	83	29	26	79	78
Cape Verde	0.2	0.3	..	..	..	366	329	327	42	40	37	41	31	..	71
Central African Republic	59.3	24.7	..	2	69	225	548	483	33	113	91	31	24	..	91
Chad	24.7	47.7	1 001	..	44	397	456	495	51	66	70	24	23	72	69
Comoros	..	5.1	16	9	63	193	103	89	22	8	7	23	30	96	94
Congo, Democratic Republic	..	83.1	16 498	1	45	263	564	541	37	81	73	44	46	78	85
Djibouti	6.1	7.2	..	..	..	1 338	###	..	160	115	..	63	48	82	80
Equatorial Guinea	72.3	31.3	..	1	49	341	374	355	44	63	47	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	..	17.4	78	4	4	493	444	515	59	62	69	42	28	82	85
Ethiopia	..	8.0	..	1	3	269	533	546	33	79	73	47	46	76	79
Gambia	237.7	100.5	..	15	55	432	341	352	50	41	46	58	53	74	86
Guinea	3.6	109.5	441	4	56	264	407	431	32	54	52	33	30	72	72
Guinea-Bissau	80.5	134.6	780	7	58	364	312	293	43	43	40	56	51	48	75
Lesotho	..	..	..	..	..	416	588	588	47	109	107	91	83	52	69
Liberia	..	301.5	..	..	..	430	507	507	58	78	70	..	34	..	70
Madagascar	..	121.5	759	..	34	434	331	396	50	41	45	51	41	74	71
Malawi	409.3	240.4	6 993	15	28	523	551	518	78	107	98	48	46	72	71
Mali	27.5	62.2	1 309	8	38	655	593	578	81	75	71	12	12	50	71
Mauritania	13.3	59.6	100	2	33	531	668	590	61	77	69	..	22	..	22
Mozambique	..	269.7	3 569	..	15	332	636	597	44	129	124	33	36	78	77
Niger	152.0	59.1	1 096	6	48	290	276	294	34	33	35	38	33	..	61
Rwanda	189.2	102.1	..	5	13	251	664	673	40	104	91	19	21	58	77
Sao Tome and Principe	..	393.5	..	..	61	309	256	258	36	28	27	..	..	..	..
Senegal	..	119.3	1 337	14	29	452	432	466	53	50	54	38	31	66	74
Sierra Leone	..	95.4	..	2	61	497	809	905	58	102	111	25	25	81	82
Somalia	..	2.4	10	..	..	751	755	..	89	126	..	23	68	89	91
Sudan	301.2	91.8	2 479	0	50	404	364	..	47	62	..	34	33	78	77
Togo	234.6	92.2	791	54	60	799	696	753	94	98	101	10	11	68	67
Uganda	..	477.9	8 450	0	..	270	652	559	55	96	91	39	37	60	70
United Republic of Tanzania	411.1	289.7	14 156	16	58	371	524	496	53	86	75	45	45	80	81
Zambia	235.8	..	5 763	7	52	492	638	618	104	122	118	76	68	83	83

Annex table 7

Malaria and tuberculosis prevalence, mortality, prevention and treatment

Least developed countries	Reported malaria cases per 1000 population * 1990	2000/2003	Number of reported deaths from malaria * 2000/2003	Children under 5 years: Sleeping under treated net (%) 1999/2005	Perc. with fever receiving anti-malaria drugs 1999/2005	Estimated prevalence of tuberculosis per 100,000 population 1990	###	###	Estimated tuberculo deaths per 100,000 population 1990	2003	2005	DOTS: Proportion of TB cases detected, p cent 2003	2005	Proportion of detected cases cured, per cent 2002	2004
Asia and Pacific															
Afghanistan	23.0	24.7	..	..	..	693	671	288	75	93	35	17	42	87	89
Bangladesh	0.5	0.4	574	..	..	741	490	406	65	57	47	24	37	84	90
Bhutan	5.6	1.7	15	..	..	626	194	174	55	21	19	41	44	86	83
Cambodia	12.7	5.0	492	..	..	1 584	762	703	123	95	87	39	49	92	91
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	392	60	426	30	4	49	540	87	94	94
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	5.3	3.3	187	18	9	497	327	306	37	26	24	31	40	78	86
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	542	39	53	48	2	3	96	76	95	95
Myanmar	24.4	14.5	2 476	..	..	514	187	170	45	25	15	90	119	81	84
Nepal	1.2	0.4	3	..	..	636	318	244	56	29	23	58	64	86	87
Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	145	44	27	11	5	3	51	65	84	100
Solomon Islands	..	189.9	71	..	..	392	60	201	30	4	23	103	58	90	87
Timor-Leste	..	40.9	8	..	19	1 674	754	713	147	96	88	64	71	81	80
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	145	59	495	11	6	55	954	38	..	100
Vanuatu	192.7	71.9	..	..	..	392	71	84	30	8	10	82	56	79	90
Yemen	1.0	13.2	29	..	..	286	151	136	31	12	10	56	32	82	82
Latin America and the Caribbean															
Haiti	0.7	1.2	16	..	12	647	415	405	89	71	58	52	49	78	80

Sources: United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization, *World Malaria Report 2005* (Geneva, 2005); World Health Organization, *Global tuberculosis control—surveillance, planning, financing 2007*; and United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children, The Double Dividend of Gender Equality* (New York, 2007), table 3.

* Data for malaria cases and deaths are the same as reported last year. Updates are not yet available.
+The international recommended strategy for TB control.

Annex table 8
Improved water and sanitation

Least developed countries	Percentage of population		Percentage of population with access to improved sanitation				Percentage of population with access to improved drinking water			
			Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	1990	2005	1990	2004	1990	2004	1990	2004	1990	2004
Africa										
Angola	26.1	37.2	61	56	18	16	23	75	40	40
Benin	34.5	46.1	32	59	2	11	73	78	57	57
Burkina Faso	13.6	18.6	32	42	3	6	61	94	34	54
Burundi	6.3	10.6	42	47	44	35	97	92	67	77
Cape Verde	44.1	57.6	..	61	..	19	..	86	..	73
Central African Republic	37.5	43.8	34	37	17	12	74	93	39	43
Chad	21.1	25.6	28	24	2	4	41	41	13	82
Comoros	27.9	36.3	62	41	20	29	98	92	91	96
Congo, Democratic Republic	27.9	32.7	53	42	1	25	90	82	25	29
Djibouti	75.3	84.6	88	88	50	50	76	76	59	59
Equatorial Guinea	34.5	50.0	..	60	..	46	..	45	..	42
Eritrea	15.8	20.8	44	32	0	3	62	74	39	57
Ethiopia	12.7	16.2	13	44	2	7	81	81	15	11
Gambia	24.9	26.1	..	72	..	46	95	95	..	77
Guinea	25.3	36.5	27	31	10	11	71	78	34	35
Guinea-Bissau	23.8	35.6	..	57	..	23	..	79	..	49
Lesotho	17.2	18.2	61	61	32	32	..	92	..	76
Liberia	42.0	47.9	59	49	24	7	85	72	34	52
Madagascar	23.6	27.0	27	48	10	26	80	77	27	35
Malawi	11.6	17.2	52	66	34	42	90	96	33	68
Mali	23.8	33.7	50	59	32	39	50	78	29	36
Mauritania	44.0	64.3	42	49	22	8	52	59	43	44
Mozambique	21.1	38.0	49	53	19	19	83	72	24	26
Niger	16.1	23.3	35	43	2	4	62	80	35	30
Rwanda	5.3	21.8	49	56	36	38	88	92	57	69
Sao Tome and Principe	36.5	37.9	..	32	..	20	..	89	..	73
Senegal	40.0	51.0	53	79	19	34	89	92	49	60
Sierra Leone	30.0	40.2	..	53	..	30	..	75	..	46
Somalia	29.4	35.9	..	48	..	14	..	32	..	27
Sudan	26.6	40.8	53	50	26	24	85	78	57	64
Togo	40.9	57.0	71	71	24	15	81	80	37	36
Uganda	21.7	37.5	54	51	41	41	80	87	40	56
United Republic of Tanzania	7.8	7.8	52	53	45	43	85	85	35	49
Zambia	39.4	36.5	63	59	31	52	86	90	27	40
Asia and Pacific										
Afghanistan	18.2	24.3	7	49	2	29	10	63	3	31
Bangladesh	19.8	25.0	55	51	12	35	83	82	69	72
Bhutan	5.5	9.1	..	65	..	70	..	86	..	60
Cambodia	12.6	19.7	..	53	..	8	..	64	..	35
Kiribati	34.6	50.2	33	59	21	22	76	77	33	53
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15.4	21.6	..	67	..	20	..	79	..	43
Maldives	25.9	29.7	100	100	..	42	100	98	96	76
Myanmar	24.8	30.6	48	58	16	72	86	80	47	77
Nepal	8.9	15.8	48	62	7	30	95	96	67	89
Samoa	21.5	22.5	100	100	98	100	99	90	89	87
Solomon Islands	13.7	17.1	98	98	..	16	..	94	..	65
Timor-Leste	28.5	36.3	..	66	..	33	..	77	..	56
Tuvalu	11.2	12.4	83	93	74	84	79	94	89	92
Vanuatu	18.5	23.7	..	76	..	42	82	86	53	52
Yemen	21.3	26.3	82	86	19	28	84	71	68	65
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	29.5	38.8	25	57	23	14	60	52	27	24

Sources: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children, The Double Dividend of Gender Equality* (New York, and United Nations
Population Division, *World Population Prospects—The 2006 Revision* (New York, document ESA/P/WP.202, and CD-ROM in preparation).

Annex table 9
Communications

Least developed countries	Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population			Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population							Internet users per 100 population	
				Main lines			Cellular		Total			
	1990	2004	2005	1990	2003/04	2005	2003/04	2005	2003/04	2005	2004	2005
Africa												
Angola	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.6	6.7	10.4	7.4	11.0	1.2	0.6
Benin	2.9	2.2		0.3	1.1	1.0	3.4	10.0	4.4	11.0	1.5	5.7
Burkina Faso	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.7	3.0	4.8	3.6	5.5	0.4	0.5
Burundi	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.9	2.0	1.2	2.4	0.4	0.5
Cape Verde	15.1	10.9		2.4	15.6	15.0	13.9	17.2	29.5	32.2	5.3	6.1
Central African Rep.	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.5	2.5	1.8	2.7	0.2	0.3
Chad	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.4	2.2	1.5	2.3	0.7	0.4
Comoros	6.1	3.7		0.8	1.7	2.1	0.3	2.0	1.9	4.1	1.0	2.5
Congo, Democratic Republic	0.7	0.2		0.1	0.0		1.9	4.8	1.9			0.2
Djibouti	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.6	3.4	6.4	5.1	7.9	1.3	1.5
Equatorial Guinea	5.9	4.1		0.4	1.8	2.0	11.0	19.3	12.7	21.3	1.0	1.4
Eritrea	1.1	1.6	1.5		0.9	0.9	0.5	0.9	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.8
Ethiopia	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.3	0.2	0.2
Gambia	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.7	2.7	2.9	12.0	16.3	14.6	19.2	3.4	3.4
Guinea	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.4	2.4	1.8	2.7	5.8	0.6
Guinea-Bissau	2.3	1.4	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	7.1	0.9	7.9	2.0	2.3
Lesotho	8.4	8.5	7.7	0.7	2.1	2.7	8.8	13.9	10.9	16.6	2.4	2.4
Liberia	2.1	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.2		1.4	4.9	1.6			
Madagascar	10.5	4.2	4.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.9	2.7	2.2	3.1	0.5	0.5
Malawi	3.1	2.6	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.8	1.8	3.3	2.6	4.1	0.4	0.4
Mali	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.7	3.6	7.7	4.3	8.3	0.5	0.5
Mauritania	2.7	0.9		0.3	1.4	1.3	17.5	24.3	18.9	25.6	0.5	0.7
Mozambique	2.8	1.5	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	3.7	6.2	4.2	6.5	0.7	0.7
Niger	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.2	2.2	1.4	2.3	0.2	0.2
Rwanda	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.8	3.2	1.9	3.5	0.5	0.6
Sao Tome and Principe	8.0	6.5		1.9	4.6	4.6	3.2	7.7	7.8	12.3	12.2	13.1
Senegal	1.5	1.2	1.2	0.6	2.2	2.3	9.9	14.8	12.2	17.1	4.7	4.8
Sierra Leone	1.7	0.8		0.3	0.4		2.3	2.2	2.7		0.2	0.2
Somalia	0.0	0.0		0.2	1.7	1.2	4.2	6.1	5.8	7.3	1.7	1.1
Sudan	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.3	3.0	1.9	3.0	5.2	6.0	7.1	3.3	8.0
Togo	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.3	1.2	1.2	4.4	8.6	5.6	9.8	4.4	5.9
Uganda	1.6	1.2	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.9	0.8	1.7
United Republic of Tanzania	1.9	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	4.4	8.8	4.8	9.2	0.9	0.9
Zambia	5.0	1.6	2.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.8	6.1	3.5	8.9	2.1	2.0

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Annex table 9
Communications

Least developed countries	Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population			Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population							Internet users per 100 population	
				Main lines			Cellular		Total			
	1990	2004	2005	1990	2003/04	2005	2003/04	2005	2003/04	2005	2004	2005
Asia and Pacific												
Afghanistan	1.8	1.4	1.8	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.4	4.0	2.6	4.4	0.1	0.1
Bangladesh	7.0	7.2		0.2	0.6	0.8	2.9	6.4	3.4	7.1	0.2	0.3
Bhutan	5.8	5.2	17.3	0.4	1.3	4.0	0.8	4.7	2.0	8.7	0.9	3.1
Cambodia	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.2	3.5	7.6	3.8	7.8	0.3	0.3
Kiribati	31.8	25.7		1.7	4.0	5.1	0.6	0.7	4.6	5.8	2.4	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.9	4.0	5.9	0.2	1.3	1.3	3.5	10.8	4.8	12.0	0.4	0.4
Maldives	88.8	67.2	72.8	2.9	9.6		34.5		44.1		5.8	5.8
Myanmar	2.7	2.7	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.1	0.1
Nepal	11.6	15.1		0.3	1.6	1.8	0.7	0.8	2.3	2.6	0.7	0.8
Samoa	22.8	19.6	19.6	2.6	7.3	10.5	5.8	13.0	13.1	23.5	3.3	3.2
Solomon Islands	33.1	5.8	4.2	1.5	1.3	1.6	0.3	1.3	1.6	2.8	0.6	0.8
Timor-Leste												
Tuvalu	92.4	86.6		1.3	7.0		0.0		7.0			30.0
Vanuatu	3.6	15.9	20.0	1.8	3.1	3.2	4.8	5.9	8.0	9.1	3.5	3.5
Yemen	2.8	1.5	1.2	1.1	3.9	3.9	5.2	9.5	9.0	13.4	0.9	0.9
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	1.7	0.7	0.0	0.7	1.7	1.7	4.7	4.9	6.4	6.6	5.9	7.0

Sources: Universal Postal Union, *Postal Statistics Database*, http://www.upu.org, accessed 1 March 2007 (Geneva); International Telecommunications Union, *ITU Statistics*, http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/, accessed 10 March 2007.

Annex table 10
Transportation facilities

Least developed countries	Roads: Total road network kms 1990	Roads: Total road network kms 1999/2003	Roads: Paved roads (%) 1999/2003	Railways: Route kms 2000/2004	Railways: Freight ton-kms 2000/2004	Air transport: Departures (thousands) 1990	Air transport: Departures (thousands) 2004	Air freight (mil. ton-kms) 1990	Air freight (mil. ton-kms) 2004
Africa									
Angola		51 429	10.4	2 761	..	6.9	4.8	40	64
Benin	6 787	6 787	20.0	438	86	0.5	0.7	18	7
Burkina Faso	9 840	12 506	16.0	622	..	2.2	1.4	18	7
Burundi	..	14 480	7.1	..	..	0.9	..	..	..
Cape Verde	1 100	1 100	78.0	..	..	6.7	9.6	..	..
Central African Republic	23 648	23 810	2.7	..	..	3.8	0.7	18	7
Chad	29 700	33 400	0.8	..	..	1.2	0.7	18	7
Comoros	..	880	76.5	..	..	1.0	..	..	..
Congo, Democratic Republic	..	157 000	..	4 499	491	5.1	5.2	57	7
Djibouti	2 879	2 890	12.6	..	..	3.9	..	<1	..
Equatorial Guinea	2 550	2 880	..	..	..	0.4	..	<1	..
Eritrea	3 560	4 010	21.6	306	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	27 901	33 856	12.9	..	..	0.6	29.5	67	117
Gambia, The	2 386	3 742	19.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea	29 620	44 348	9.8	837	..	1.1	0.6	<1	1
Guinea-Bissau	4 100	4 400	10.3	..	..	1.2	..	<1	..
Lesotho	5 090	5 940	18.3	..	..	4.6	2.1	<1	..
Liberia	9 320	10 600	6.2	490	..	2.3	..	<1	..
Madagascar	34 800	49 827	11.6	883	12	17.2	18.0	30	13
Malawi	10 204	28 400	18.5	710	88	3.5	5.6	1	1
Mali	13 400	15 100	12.1	733	189	1.1	0.7	..	7
Mauritania	7 300	7 660	11.3	717	..	3.6	1.7	18	..
Mozambique	27 000	30 400	16.7	2 072	808	5.6	8.6	9	5
Niger	11 696	10 100	7.9	..	..	0.5	0.7	18	7
Rwanda	13 173	12 000	8.3	..	..	0.5	..	..	..
Sao Tome and Principe	..	320	68.1	..	..	12.7	0.3	..	<1
Senegal	13 800	13 576	29.3	906	371	3.5	6.4	18	..
Sierra Leone	11 300	11 300	8.0	..	..	0.5	0.2	2	8
Somalia	20 800	22 100	11.8	..	..	1.6	..	9	..
Sudan	10 420	11 900	36.3	5 478	889	9.1	6.4	13	41
Togo	7 390	7 520	31.6	568	..	0.5	0.7	18	7
Uganda	..	70 746	23.0	259	218	2.0	0.3	22	27
United Republic of Tanzania	55 900	78 891	8.6	2 600	1 351	7.5	6.4	1	2
Zambia	35 300	91 440	22.0	1 273	554	6.5	4.9	30	..
Asia and Pacific									
Afghanistan	21 000	34 789	23.7	..	..	5.3	3.4	9	8
Bangladesh	188 000	239 226	9.5	2 745	..	13.8	7.3	70	180
Bhutan	2 336	8 050	62.0	..	..	..	..	..	<1
Cambodia	35 800	12 323	16.2	650	92	..	3.9	..	4
Kiribati	..	670	..	..	..	2.9	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 971	32 620	14.1	..	..	3.4	8.5	1	2
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	0.8	4.2	..	13
Myanmar	25 000	27 966	78.0	..	..	13.8	24.9	1	3
Nepal	6 840	15 905	53.9	59	..	25.8	5.9	11	7
Samoa	..	790	42.0	..	..	..	10.5	..	3
Solomon Islands	1 210	1 380	2.5	..	..	11.1	9.8	..	2
Timor Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	1 070	23.9	..	..	0.3	1.5	..	2
Yemen	51 119	67 000	11.5	..	..	14.1	16.1	12	60
Latin America and the Caribbean									
Haiti	3 695	4 160	24.3	..	..	0.8	..	4	..

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007* (Washington, D.C.), table 5.9, compiled from data of the International Road Federation, the World Bank and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Annex table 11
Official development assistance

Country	ODA, net to LDCs, million US dollars				ODA, net to LDCs, as perc. of total				ODA, net to LDCs, as perc. of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income				ODA for trade capacity-building as perc. of total ODA		
	1990	2000	2004	2005	1990	2000	2004	2005	1990	2000	2004	2005	2001	2004	2005
Australia	171	293	350	419	17.9	29.7	24.0	25	0.34	0.27	0.25	0.06	2.1	1.2	1.0
Austria	106	113	168	245	63.1	25.7	24.8	16	0.11	0.23	0.23	0.08	..	1.3	2.4
Belgium	367	221	645	609	41.3	27.0	44.1	31	0.46	0.36	0.41	0.16	2.4	7.4	4.4
Canada	740	308	702	1048	30.0	17.7	27.0	28	0.44	0.25	0.27	0.09	9.3	3.0	1.0
Denmark	462	537	735	814	39.4	32.3	36.1	39	0.94	1.06	0.85	0.31	0.6	0.3	..
Finland	317	112	153	245	37.5	30.2	23.3	27	0.65	0.31	0.35	0.13	1.0	..	3.2
France	2 286	1 144	3 169	2392	33.3	27.9	37.4	24	0.60	0.30	0.41	0.11	0.4	1.6	2.4
Germany	1 769	1 212	2 312	1884	28.0	24.1	30.7	19	0.42	0.27	0.28	0.07	2.6	1.6	2.1
Greece	..	19	65	79	..	8.4	14.0	21	..	0.20	0.23	0.04	..	0.2	0.0
Ireland	21	114	322	365	36.7	48.7	53.0	51	0.16	0.29	0.39	0.21	0.3	0.2	0.2
Italy	1 382	389	788	1407	40.7	28.3	32.0	28	0.31	0.13	0.15	0.08	1.4	1.4	0.3
Japan	1 753	2 159	1 684	2326	19.4	16.0	18.9	18	0.31	0.28	0.19	0.05	0.6	0.4	0.7
Luxembourg	10	46	87	106	39.4	37.4	36.9	41	0.21	0.71	0.83	0.34	..	..	..
Netherlands	834	794	1 453	1658	33.0	25.3	34.6	32	0.92	0.84	0.73	0.27	2.7	3.2	3.3
New Zealand	18	29	65	70	18.9	25.6	30.6	25	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.07	10.8	10.7	9.5
Norway	532	427	837	1029	44.2	33.8	36.1	37	1.17	0.76	0.87	0.35	4.1	2.8	3.3
Portugal	100	171	878	210	70.3	63.2	85.2	56	0.24	0.26	0.63	0.12	0.7	1.1	1.2
Spain	194	144	424	817	20.1	12.1	17.4	27	0.20	0.22	0.24	0.07	0.1	..	0.6
Sweden	775	532	762	1101	38.7	29.6	28.0	33	0.91	0.80	0.78	0.31	0.9	0.8	2.4
Switzerland	325	270	399	405	43.3	30.3	25.8	23	0.32	0.34	0.41	0.10	6.3	8.2	9.5
United Kingdom	834	1 426	2 988	2705	31.7	31.7	37.9	25	0.27	0.32	0.36	0.12	4.8	1.4	2.2
United States	2 199	1 989	4 504	5687	21.6	20.0	22.9	21	0.21	0.10	0.17	0.05	6.7	3.4	4.8

Sources: Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *International Development Statistics CD-ROM 2007* (Paris, in preparation).

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Annex table 12

World Bank/IMF debt relief under HIPC Initiative, and public and publicly guaranteed debt service

Least developed countries	LDCs in HIPC Initiative and debt relief status with World Bank and IMF, August 2006								Debt service as perc. of LDC exports of goods, services and income abroad		
	To be considered	Completion point	World Bank ($million NPV*)			IMF ($million)					
			Committed	Delivered	% delivered	Committed	Delivered	% delivered	1990	2004	2005
Africa											
Angola									7.1	13.5	9.0
Benin	..	Mar-03	124.3	41.3	33.2	18.4	20.1	109.2	9.2	7.6	4.4
Burkina Faso	..	Apr-02	236.7	157.5	66.5	44.0	46.0	104.5	7.8	7.7	6.8
Burundi	..	Aug-05 *(D)*	424.8	10.0	2.4	19.3	0.1	0.5	41.7	99.8	30.5
Cape Verde									8.9	7.2	8.3
Central African Republic	x								12.5		
Chad	..	May-01 *(D)*	68.1	26.7	39.2	14.3	8.6	60.1	3.8	1.8	0.9
Comoros	x								2.5		
Congo, Democratic Republic	..	Jul-03 *(D)*	855.5	468.3	54.7	228.3	3.4	1.5		8.2	6.9
Djibouti											
Equatorial Guinea									11.5		
Eritrea	x										
Ethiopia	..	Apr-04	801.7	159.7	19.9	45.1	46.7	103.5	37.6	6.6	6.1
Gambia	..	Dec-00 *(D)*	22.3	11.1	49.8	1.8	0.1	5.6	21.8	23.2	17.1
Guinea	..	Dec-00 *(D)*	151.4	62.1	41.0	24.2	5.2	21.5	19.6	7.5	11.3
Guinea-Bissau	..	Dec-00 *(D)*	93.3	27.0	28.9	9.2	0.5	5.4	22.1	7.4	4.4
Lesotho									4.2	4.7	5.0
Liberia	x										
Madagascar	..	Oct-04	256.2	86.3	33.7	14.7	16.4	111.6	44.4	5.0	3.9
Malawi	..	Dec-00 *(D)*	330.9	105.8	32.0	23.1	11.6	50.2	28.0	13.5	12.2
Mali	..	Mar-03	185.1	115.9	62.6	45.3	49.3	108.8	14.7	6.4	7.1
Mauritania	..	Jun-02	99.9	37.8	37.8	34.8	38.4	110.3	28.8	8.7	6.7
Mozambique	..	Sep-01	429.4	509.2	118.6	106.9	108.0	101.0	17.3	3.2	3.2
Niger	..	Apr-04	231.5	59.9	25.9	31.2	34.0	109.0	6.6	4.2	3.9
Rwanda	..	Jun-05	357.4	76.1	21.3	46.8	50.6	108.1	10.7	9.8	7.4
Sao Tome and Principe	..	Dec-00 *(D)*	23.7	6.4	27.0	..	..	..	28.7	11.6	29.3
Senegal	..	Apr-04	123.6	77.5	62.7	33.8	38.4	113.6	18.3	7.6	5.7
Sierra Leone	..	Mar-02 *(D)*	121.5	29.8	24.5	98.5	66.0	67.0	10.1	10.2	9.3
Somalia	x										
Sudan	x								4.8	8.1	7.8
Togo	x								11.5	2.5	
Uganda	..	May-00	531.0	334.3	63.0	68.1	70.2	103.1	78.6	10.5	10.8
United Republic of Tanzania	..	Nov-01	694.7	265.1	38.2	89.0	96.4	108.3	31.3	6.6	5.4
Zambia	..	Apr-05	493.2	132.2	26.8	468.8	508.3	108.4	14.5	18.3	6.7
Total	..	..	6656.2	2800.0	42.1	1465.6	1218.3	83.1	..	..	..

Annex table 12

World Bank/IMF debt relief under HIPC Initiative, and public and publicly guaranteed debt service

Least developed countries	LDCs in HIPC Initiative and debt relief status with World Bank and IMF, August 2006								Debt service as perc. of LDC exports of goods, services and income abroad		
	To be considered	Completion point	World Bank ($million NPV*) Committed	Delivered	% delivered	IMF ($million) Committed	Delivered	% delivered	1990	2004	2005
Asia and Pacific											
Afghanistan											
Bangladesh									34.8	6.9	7.2
Bhutan											
Cambodia										0.8	0.7
Kiribati											
Lao People's Democratic Republic									8.5		
Maldives									4.0	4.5	6.7
Myanmar									18.2	3.3	
Nepal	X								15.2	8.9	8.1
Samoa									10.6	5.8	4.7
Solomon Islands									11.3		
Timor-Leste											
Tuvalu											
Vanuatu									1.6	1.5	1.0
Yemen									7.1	4.3	3.0
Total											
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	X								*9.1*	*19.8*	*9.6*
Total											

Sources: International Development Association and International Monetary Fund, "Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative—Statistical Update", 21 March 2006, tables 5A an 6A, and "Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)—Status of Implementation", 21 August 2006, annex V, tables 6A and 67A; debt service statistics of non-HIPC countries from the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System, published in *Global Development Finance* (World Bank, annual and online) and *World Development Indicators* (annual and online), and of HIPC countries from the progress reports cited above.

Note: "D" refers to date of decision point.

* World Bank figures are in terms of "net present value" (NPV).